鎌谷悠希
Yuhki Kamatani

I KNOW YOU.

ヒラエスは旅路の果て

The end of the journey.

| 第14話 |

今こそ、語ろう。遠い遠い昔のこと。俺達二人の、そもそもの始まりの話を。

AND I KNOW WHERE YOU CAME FROM.

I KNOW YOUR TRUE NAME.

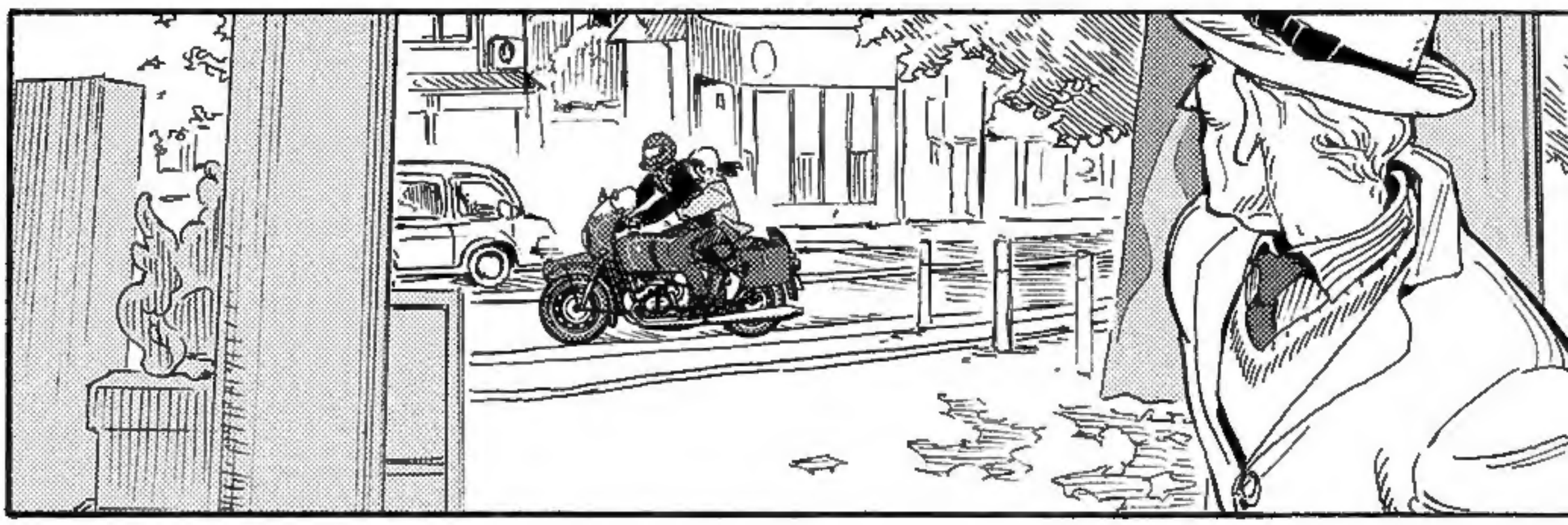
営業時間

I REMEMBER IT WELL.

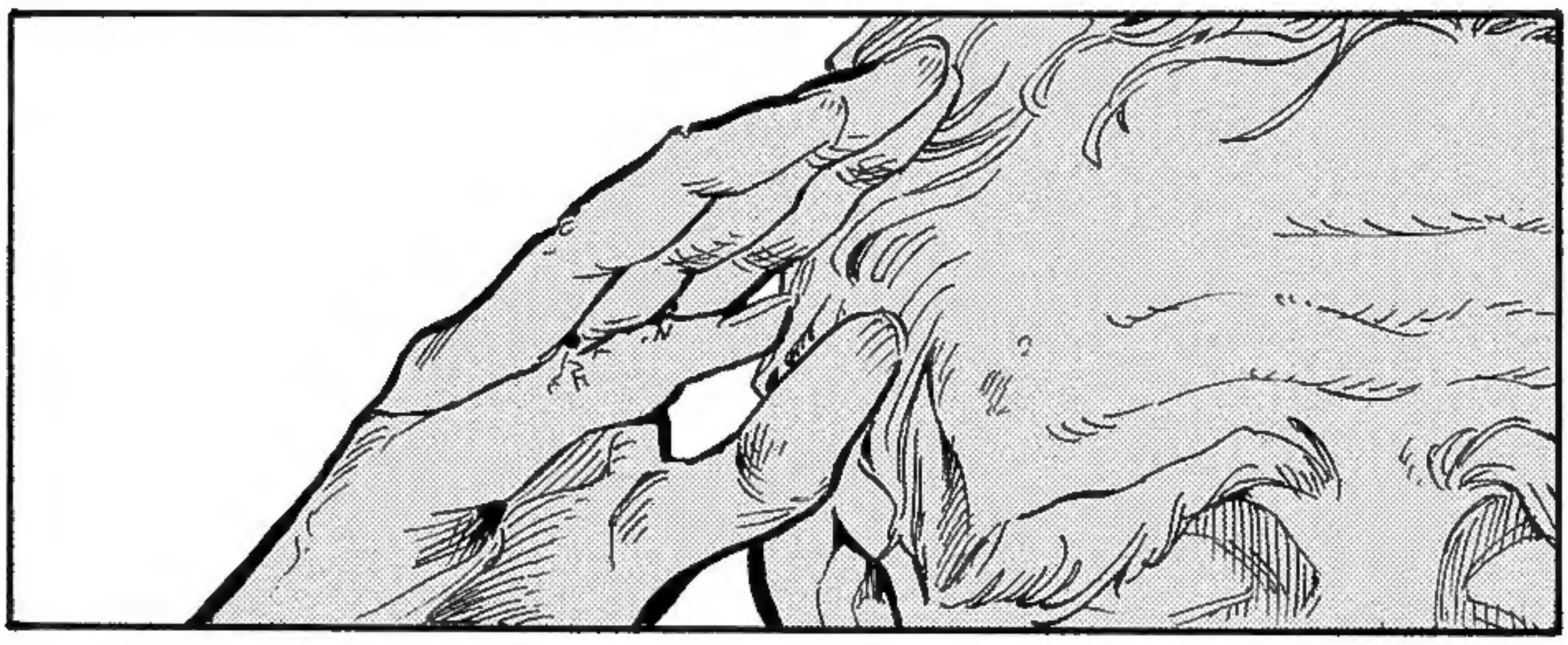
コミックス最新②巻、絶賛発売中！

THERE'S A LOT OF THINGS I'D RATHER FORGET.

ALTHOUGH IT MIGHT BE BETTER IF I DIDN'T.



IT'S THOSE PEOPLE FROM EARLIER.
!



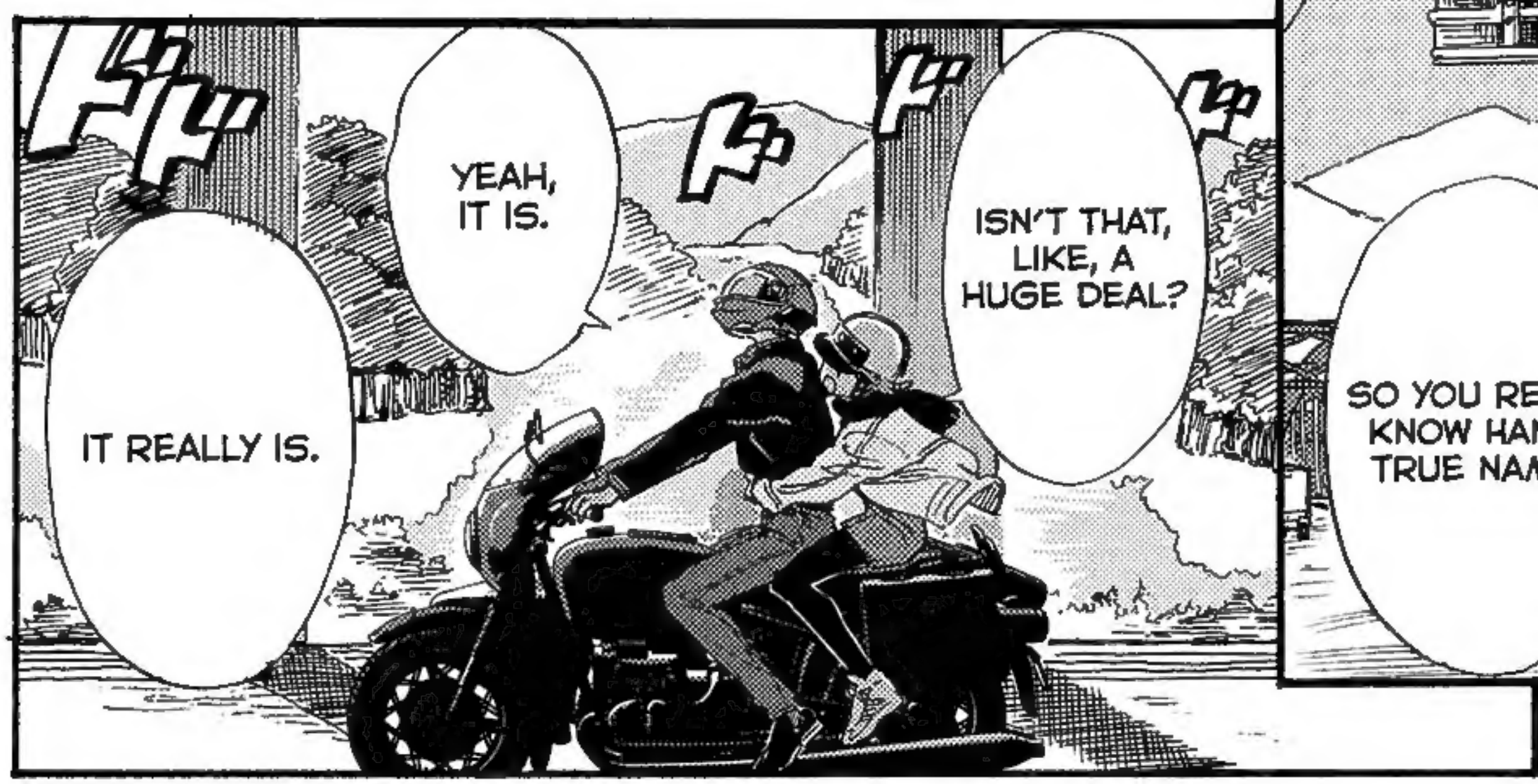
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

GRANDPA?

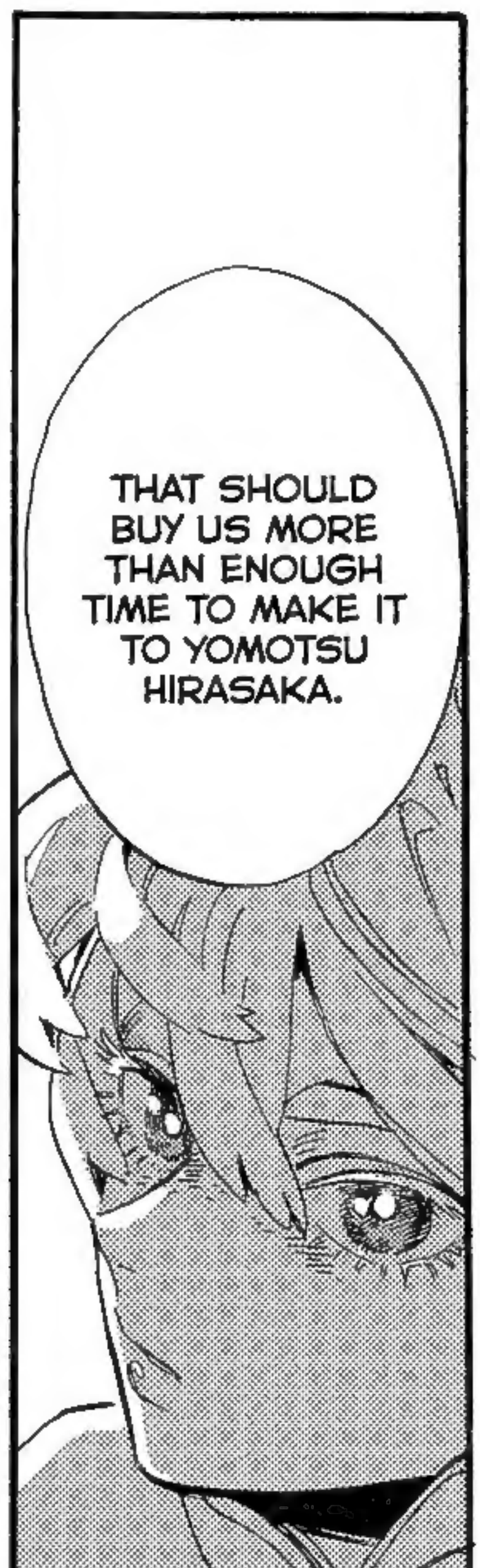
I'M PAYING MY FINAL RESPECTS TO AN OLD WAR BUDDY...

FOR THE LAST TIME.

AAH.
ほ!
FINALLY, MY MISSION IS COMPLETE.
WHAT MISSION?
AT LONG LAST
I CAN FINALLY FORGET.


YEAH, IT IS.
IT REALLY IS.
ISN'T THAT, LIKE, A HUGE DEAL?

SO YOU REALLY KNOW HANI'S TRUE NAME?


THAT SHOULD BUY US MORE THAN ENOUGH TIME TO MAKE IT TO YOMOTSU HIRASAKA.

IF I TELL YOU HANI'S TRUE NAME, MORE LIVING PEOPLE WILL KNOW ABOUT THE *REAL* HANI, WHICH EXTENDS HANI'S LIFE EVEN FURTHER.

YOU KNOW HOW GODS DIE WHEN THERE ARE NO HUMANS LEFT TO REMEMBER THEM?
WELL, HANI'S NO EXCEPTION. WHEN I SAID HANI WASN'T CLOSE TO DEATH, I WASN'T BLUFFING.

INDEED.

YOU JUST WANT YOUR MEMORIES BACK.

BUT THAT'S NOT WHAT YOU WANT, RIGHT, HANI?

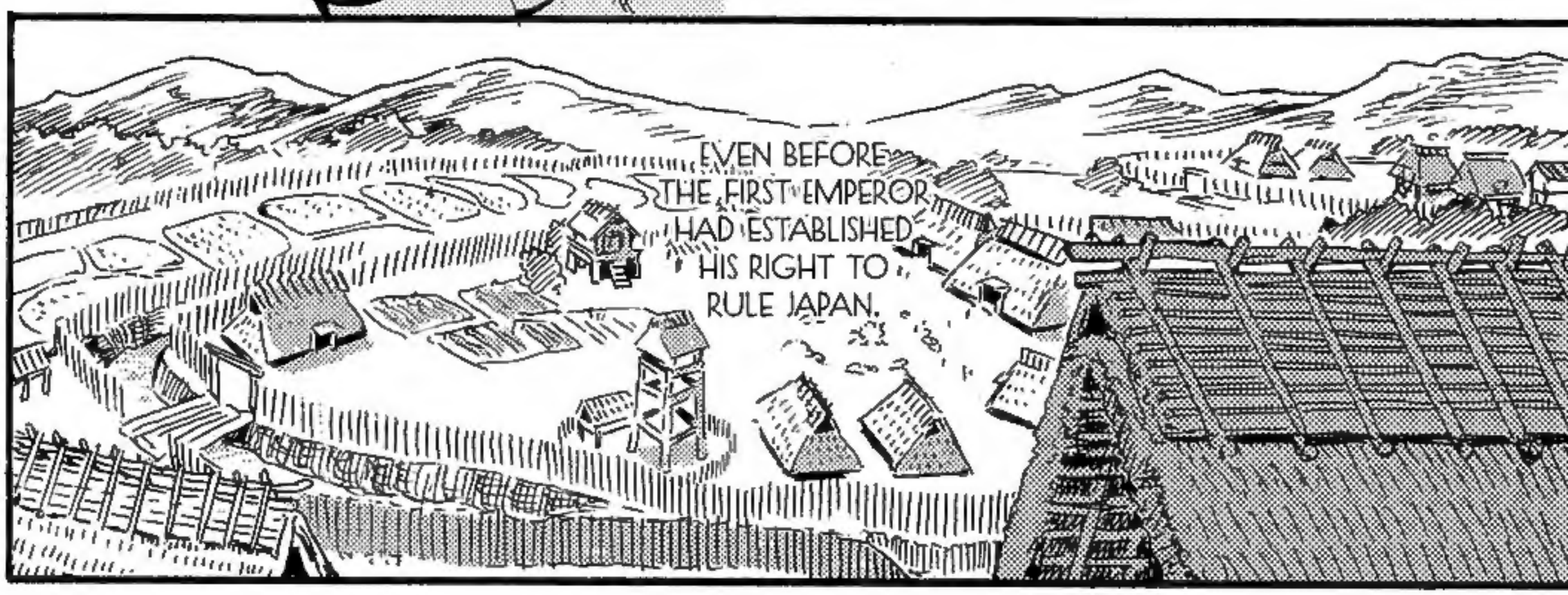
BUT IF I'M BEING HONEST, I'D PREFER IF THE FUTURE BROUGHT SOME-THING ELSE.

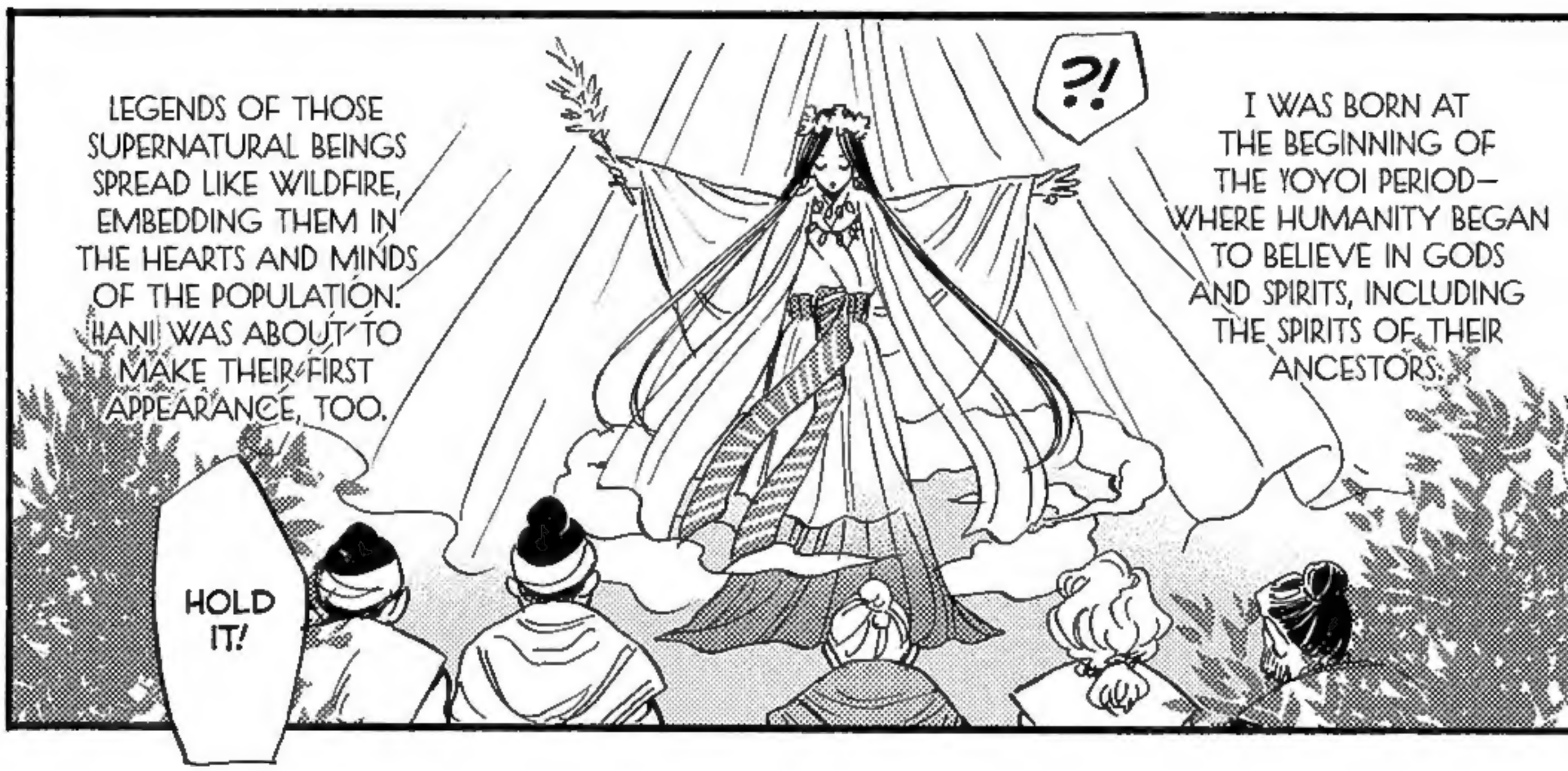
...JUST GOES TO SHOW THAT YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT THE FUTURE WILL BRING.

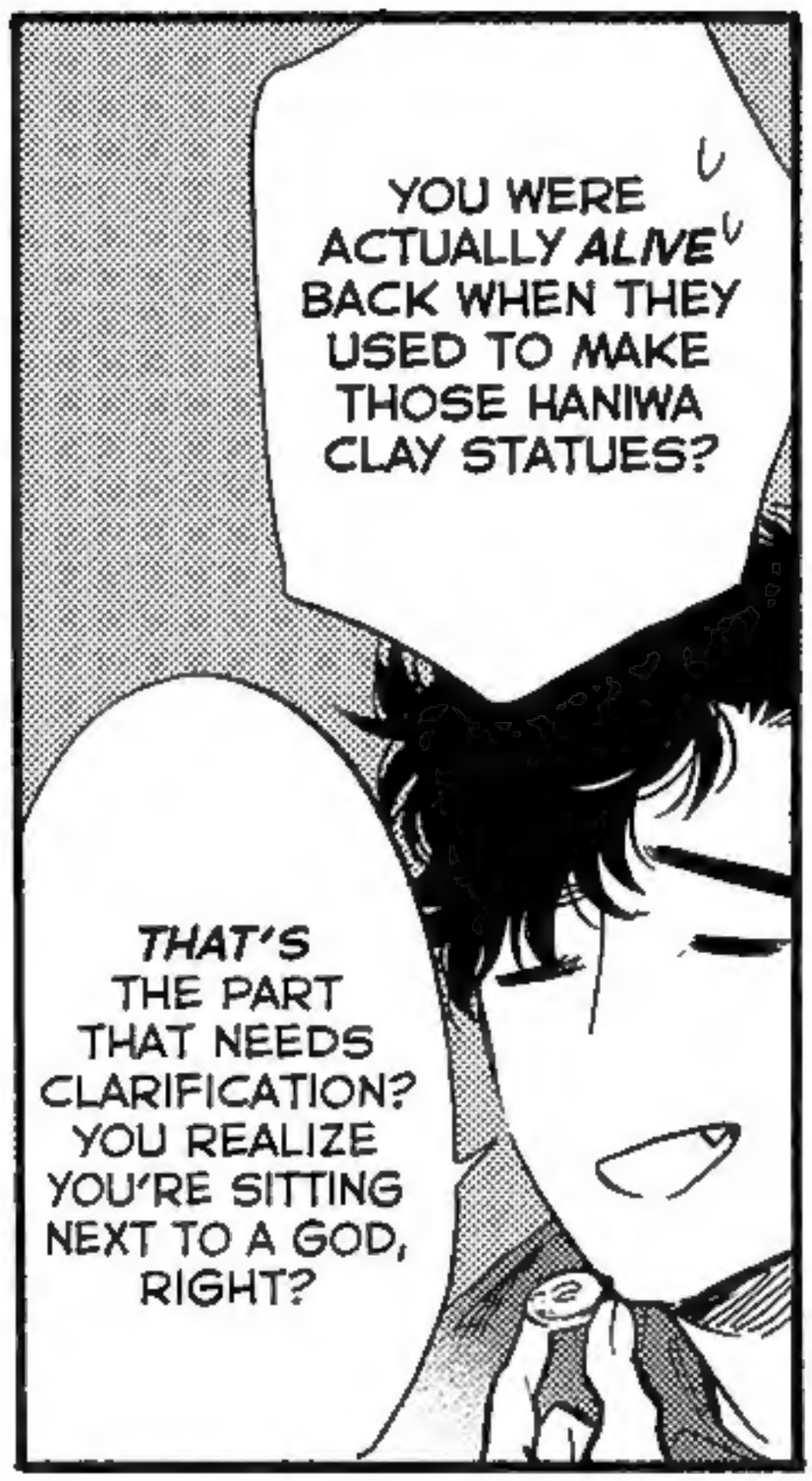
Haha

WHO COULD HAVE GUESSED THAT *I'D* END UP IN CONTROL OF *YOUR* LIFESPAN!

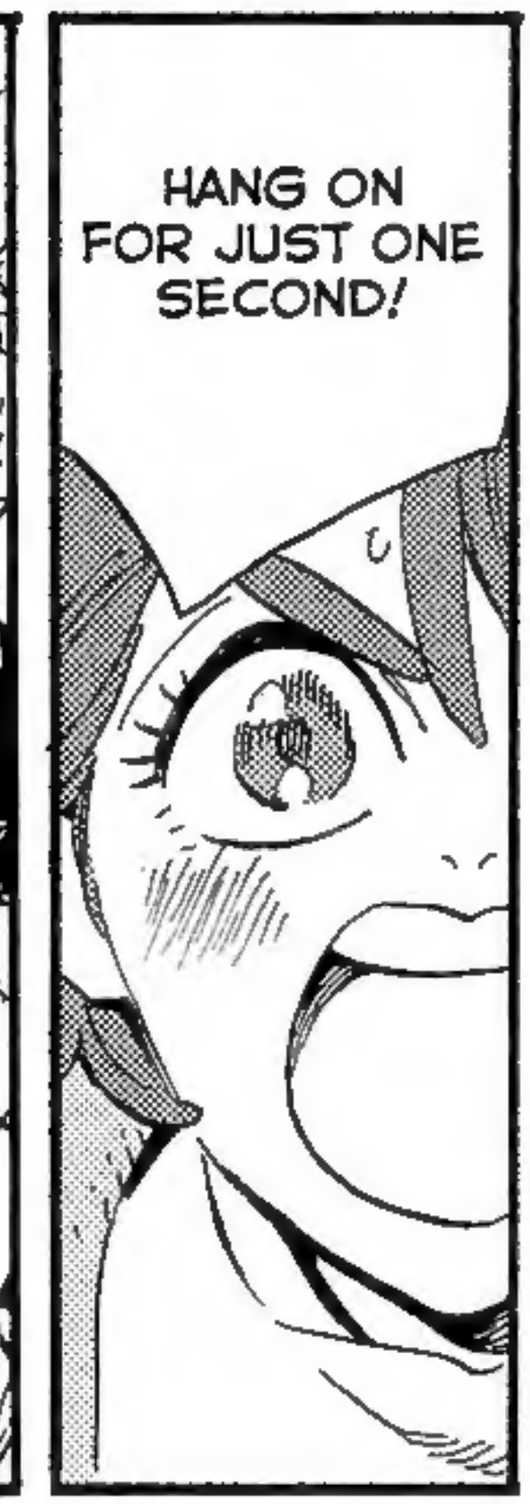
A VERY LONG TIME AGO.
Help yourself.
ONCE UPON A TIME, A VERY LONG TIME AGO...


EVEN BEFORE THE FIRST EMPEROR HAD ESTABLISHED HIS RIGHT TO RULE JAPAN.

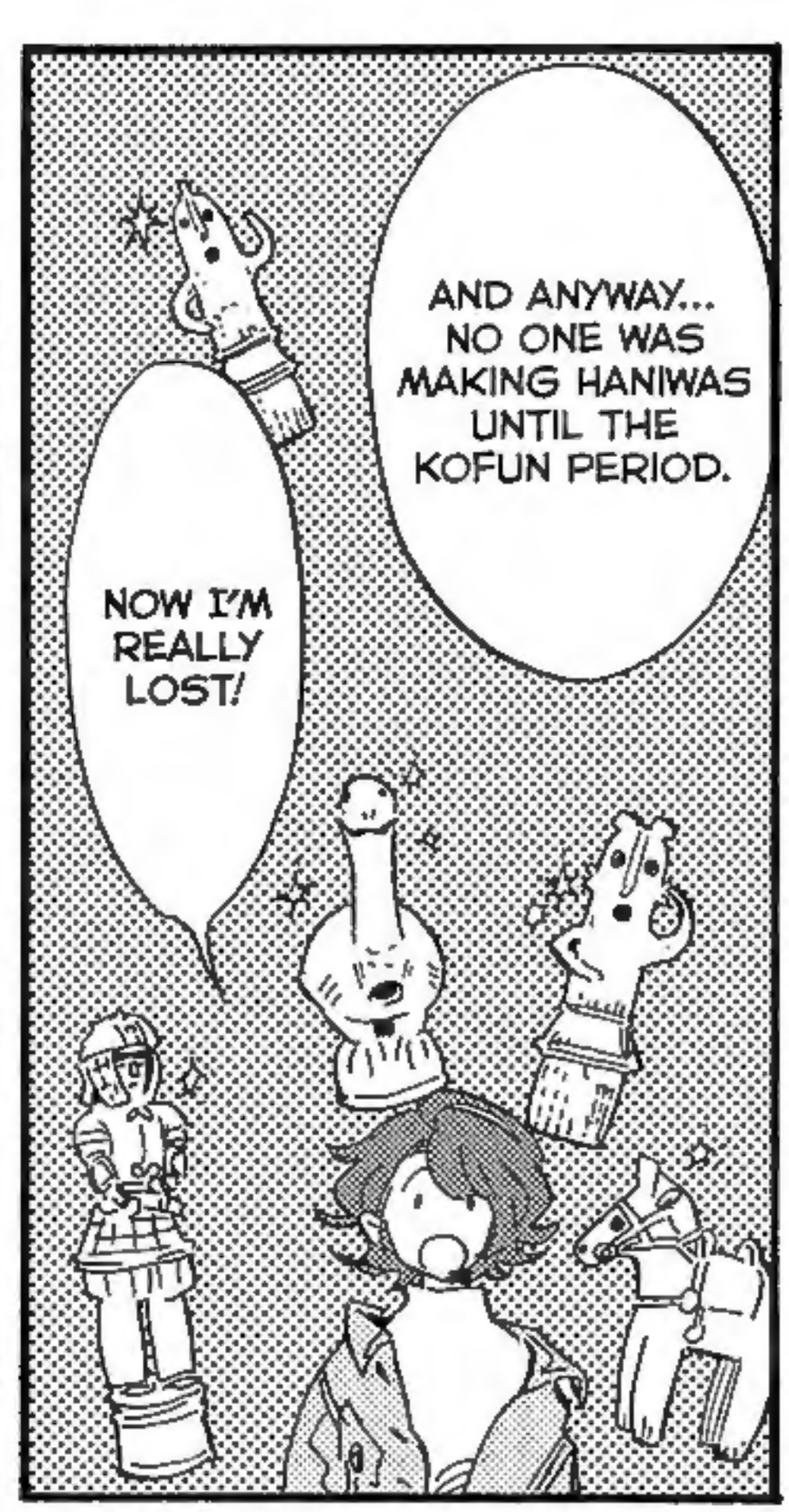

LEGENDS OF THOSE SUPERNATURAL BEINGS SPREAD LIKE WILDFIRE, EMBEDDING THEM IN THE HEARTS AND MINDS OF THE POPULATION. HANI WAS ABOUT TO MAKE THEIR FIRST APPEARANCE, TOO.
?!
I WAS BORN AT THE BEGINNING OF THE YOYOI PERIOD— WHERE HUMANITY BEGAN TO BELIEVE IN GODS AND SPIRITS, INCLUDING THE SPIRITS OF THEIR ANCESTORS.
HOLD IT!


YOU WERE ACTUALLY *ALIVE* BACK WHEN THEY USED TO MAKE THOSE HANIWA CLAY STATUES?
THAT'S THE PART THAT NEEDS CLARIFICATION? YOU REALIZE YOU'RE SITTING NEXT TO A GOD, RIGHT?

C'MON MIKA, I HAVEN'T EVEN GOTTEN TO THE GOOD PART YET.
DID YOU SAY THE *YAYOI* PERIOD?!


HANG ON FOR JUST ONE SECOND!

THAT'S...
WHEN I WAS BORN?


AND ANYWAY... NO ONE WAS MAKING HANIWAS UNTIL THE KOFUN PERIOD.
NOW I'M REALLY LOST!

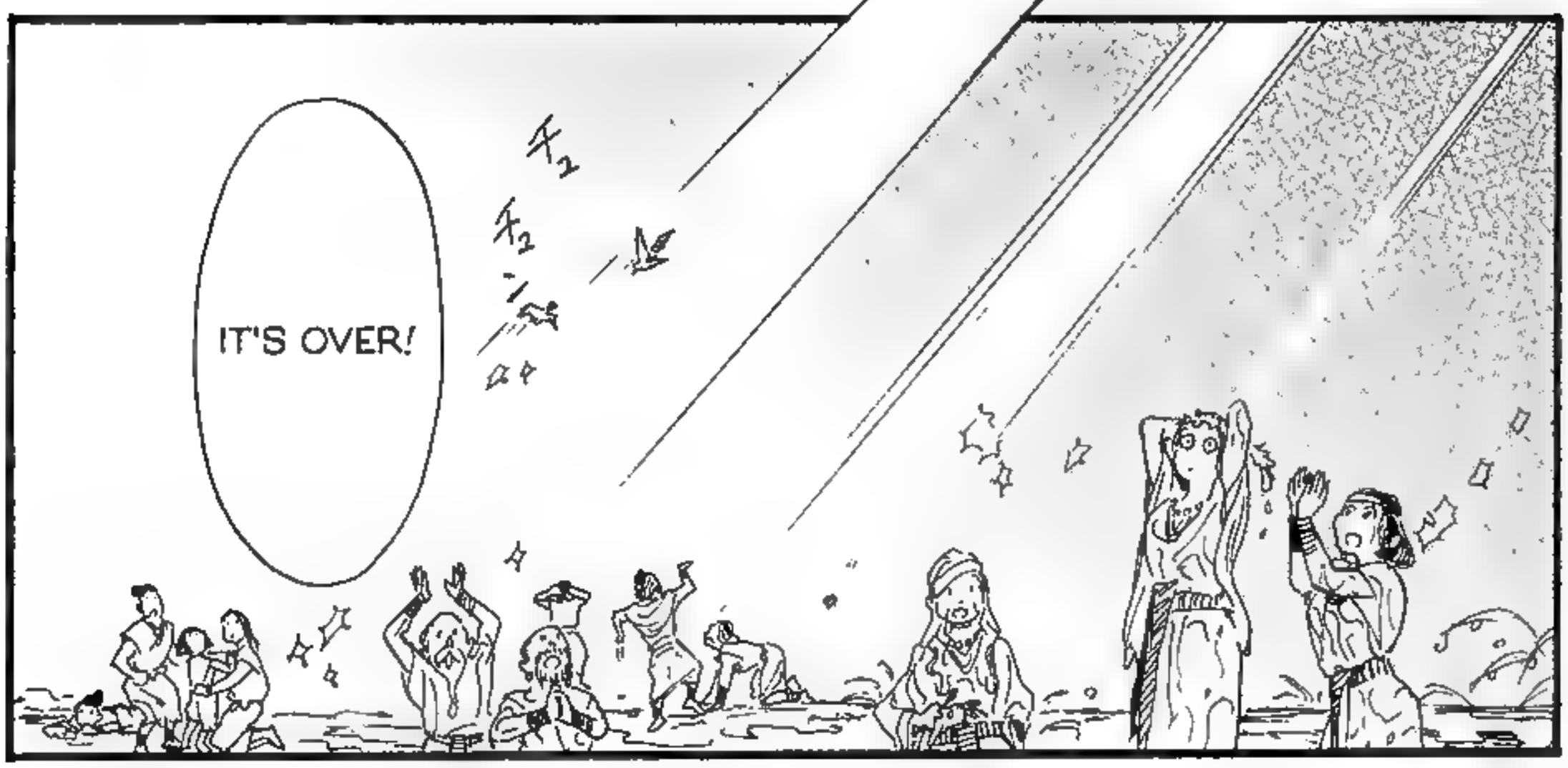
YOU WERE BORN OUT OF THE CALAMITY THAT FOLLOWED.
IT ALL STARTED WITH A DEVASTATING FLOOD.
Both lost to the floods!
My brother!
My fields!
O GODS!
Aah!
WHAT HAVE WE DONE TO DESERVE THIS?
WHY?!
YAMATO!
WE HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING. THIS IS JUST SENSELESS BRUTALITY.

WE'VE SUFFERED FOR TEN DAYS AND NIGHTS. HOW MUCH MORE ENTERTAINMENT COULD THIS GOD WANT?
My son!
ALL OF THE RICE THAT WAS READY FOR HARVEST IS DESTROYED.

THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I'VE COME TO EXPECT FROM A GOD.
THEY'RE TOYING WITH US.

RICE IS OUR LIFEBLOOD!
Yamato, Be care-full!
ALL YOU DO IS BRING DESTRUCTION! DON'T YOU HAVE ANY REGARD FOR HUMAN LIFE?!

RICE?
WOULD YOU LIKE TO TRY SOME?
IT'S USEFUL IN ANY STATE WHETHER IT'S COOKED, PRESERVED, OR FERMENTED. YOU, ON THE OTHER HAND, HAVE DONE NOTHING!
IF ANYTHING'S WORTHY OF BEING CALLED A GOD, IT'S RICE, NOT YOU!
YES.
I WOULD.
YOU ARE WELCOME AT OUR TABLE!
THEN END THIS DEVASTATING STORM AND EAT WITH US!


IT'S OVER!

WELL, YAMATO... I'VE ENDED THIS STORM OUT OF MY NEWFOUND RESPECT FOR YOU.
IN FACT, I'LL WATCH OVER THIS LAND AND ENSURE THAT IT PRODUCES A BOUNTIFUL HARVEST FOR YEARS TO COME!

WHAT A FANTASTIC DISPLAY! WHAT IS YOUR NAME, MORTAL?
...YAMATO.

Ha
pfft
ha
ha!

ALL I ASK IS ONE THING IN RETURN.

BECOME MY COMPANION.

UNTIL THE END OF TIME.

MEMORIES WAS SHOCKING BUT NOBODY MORE THAN ME. MANY HOURS, PAINFUL YEARS PASSED BEFORE I COULD QUESTION AND TO ACCEPT WHAT HAD HAPPENED.
SOME MAGIC, ALONG WITH THE WILL OF THE GOD, MADE ME MYSTICAL...
THIS WAS MY NEW REALITY THE CURSE WAS MINE TO BEAR FOR ETERNITY
HEY GOD, HOW ARE YOU TODAY?

WELL...

WHAT'S WRONG?

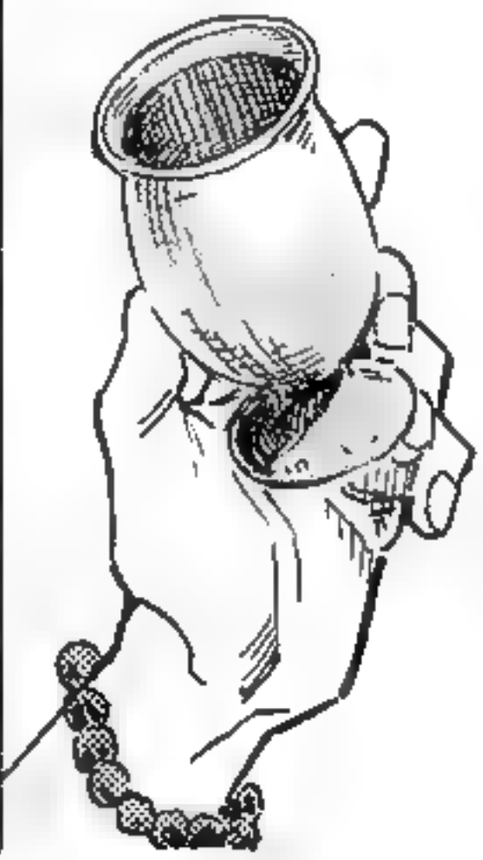
...

IS THAT BAD?

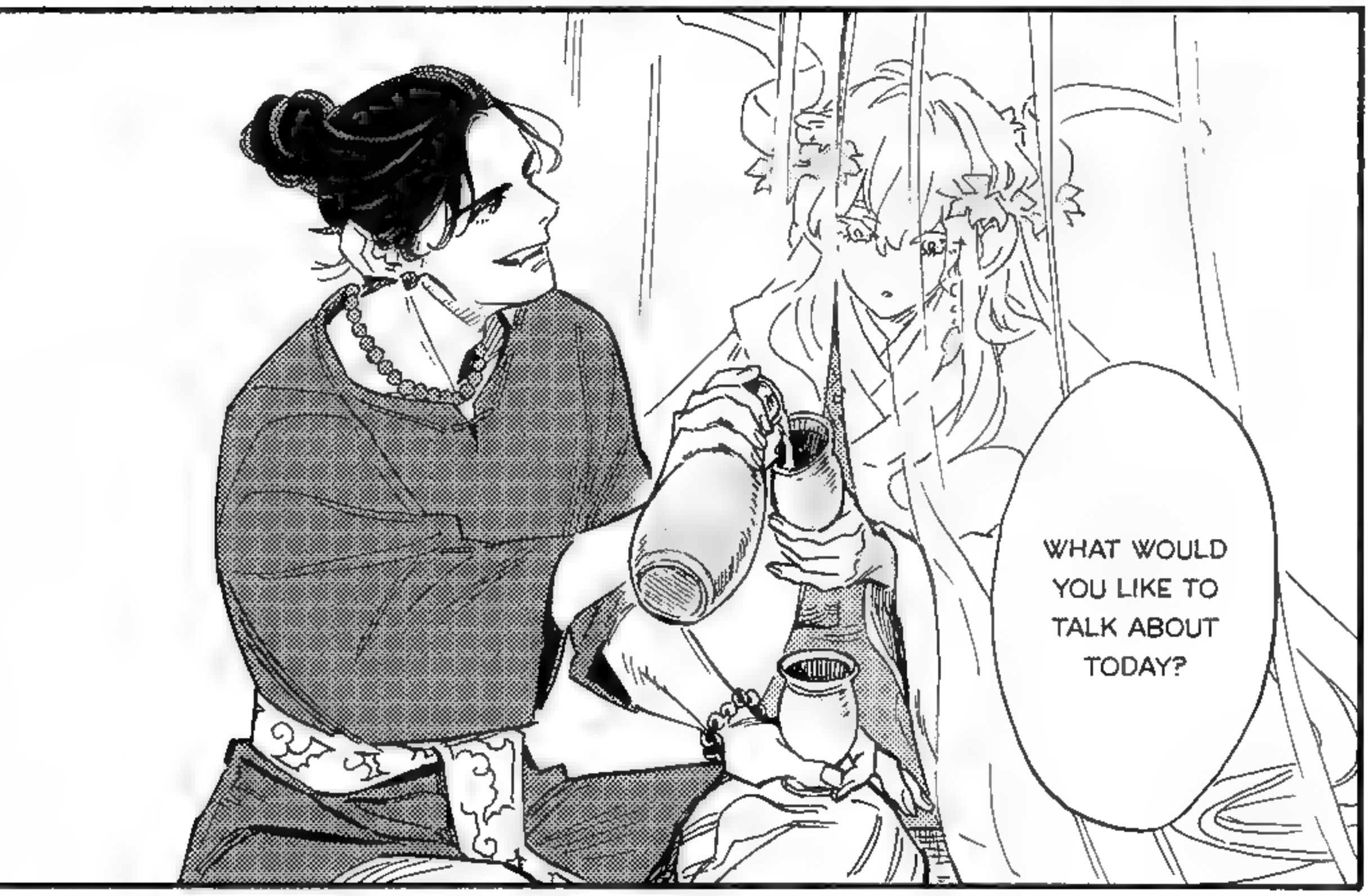
NOT AT ALL.

WE'VE GROWN VERY CLOSE, HAVEN'T WE?

WELL, ANYWAY...
WE HAVE ALL THE TIME IN THE WORLD.



IT'S NICE HAVING SOMEONE TO TALK TO, DON'T YOU THINK?
I BELIEVE YOU MIGHT BE ON TO SOMETHING.


WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO TALK ABOUT TODAY?

WHY DO MORTALS CELEBRATE THE DEAD?
THEY DO IT BECAUSE THEY HOPE THAT THE DEAD WILL COME BACK AND VISIT THEM.
HMM.
THEY HAVE IT BACKWARDS. THE ROAD TO DEATH ONLY TRAVELS IN ONE DIRECTION.
THE WORLDS OF THE LIVING AND THE DEAD *ARE* CONNECTED, BUT NOT IN THE WAY THEY'D EXPECT.

THE DAYS ALWAYS FLEW BY.
I KNEW THAT AS LONG AS THIS GOD WAS BY MY SIDE...
WHETHER WE WERE HAVING SERIOUS DISCUSSIONS OR JUST MESSING AROUND...

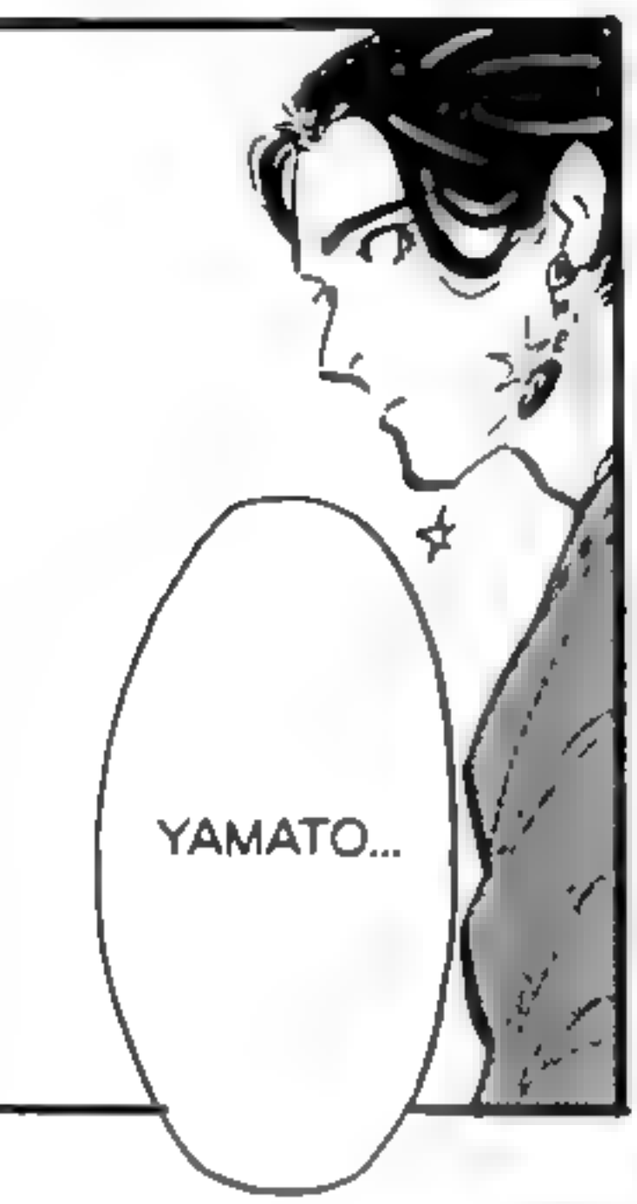
MY PURPOSE WAS CLEAR.

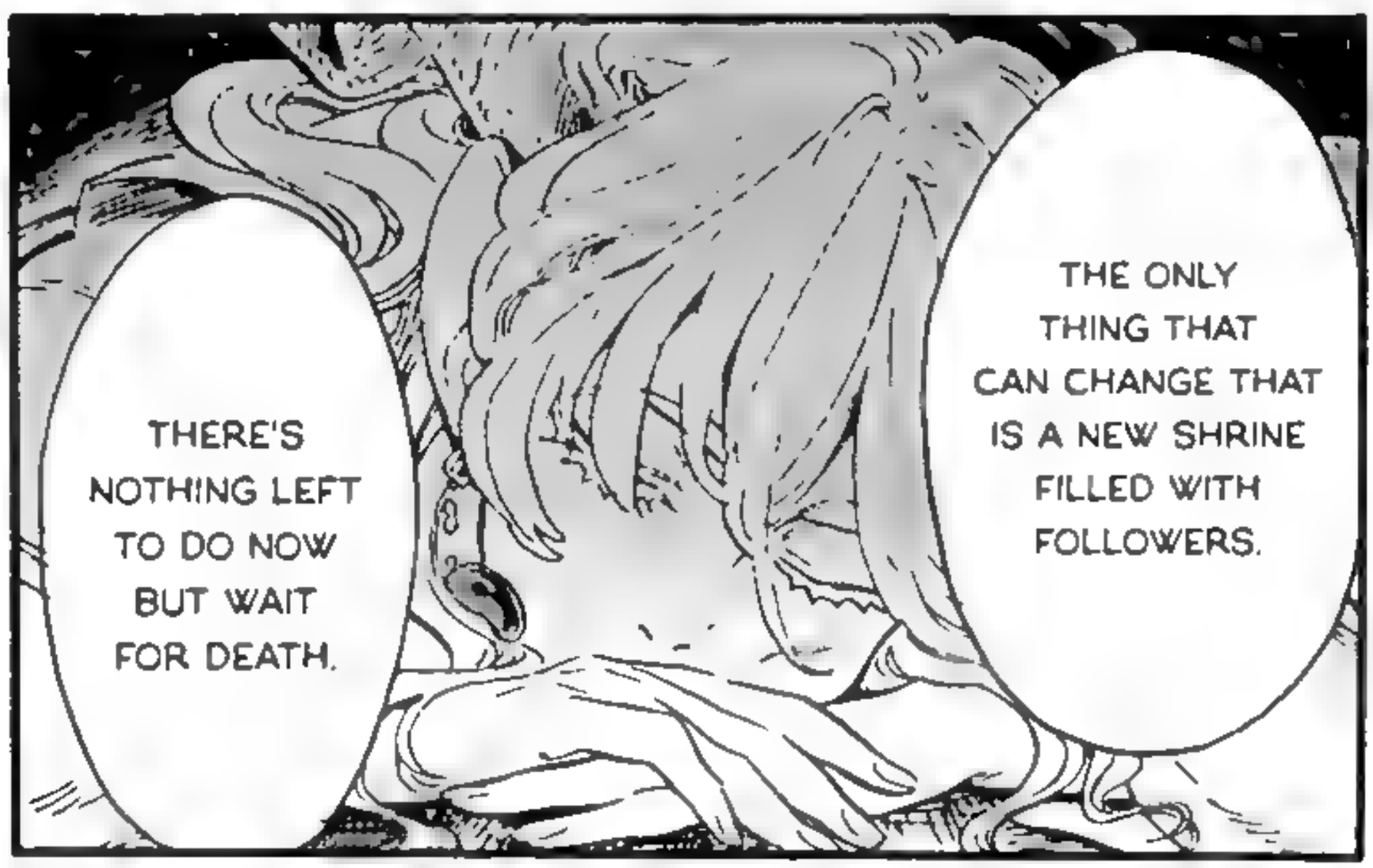
I TRIED TO FOCUS ON OTHER THINGS INSTEAD.
WAS IT COMING SOON?
BUT WHAT IF I OUTLIVED THEM? WOULD THAT DAY EVER COME?

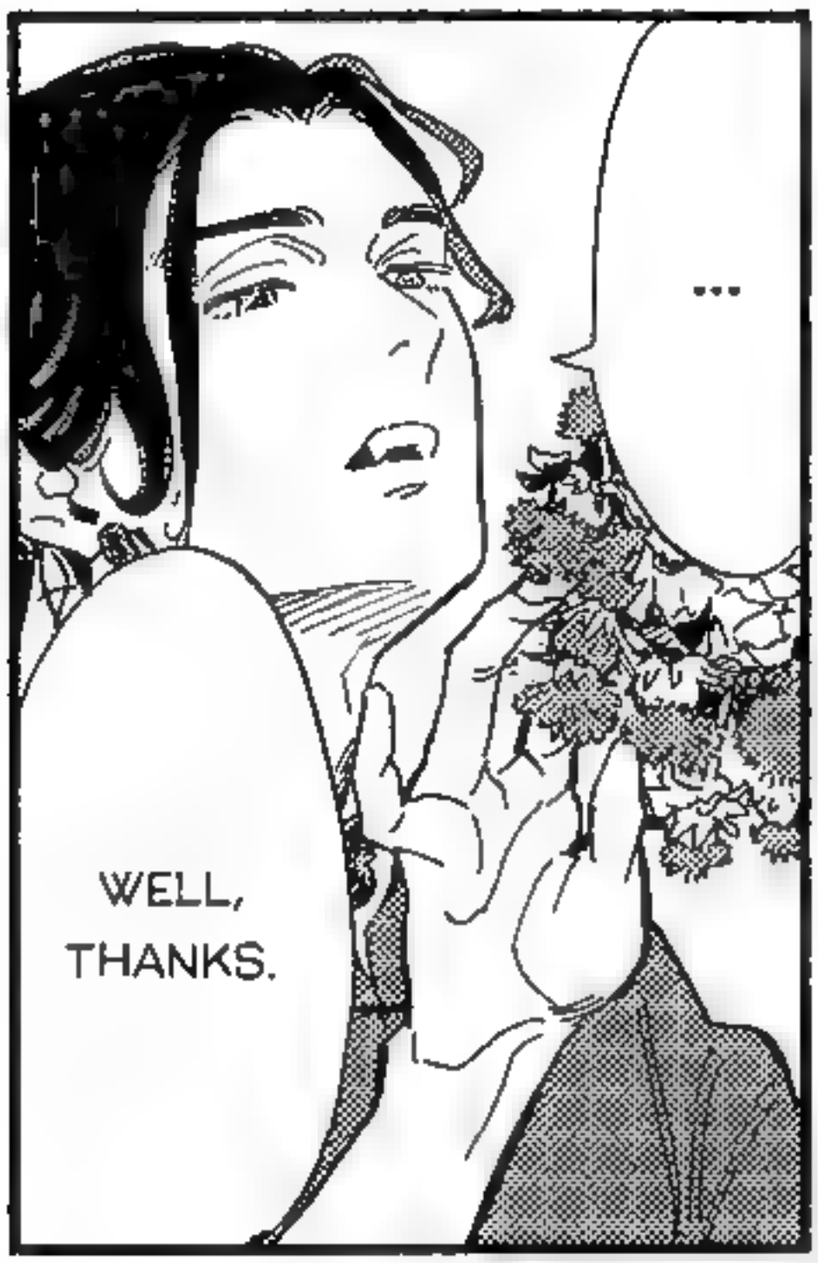
I DEVOTED MY WHOLE BEING TO OUR CONVERSATIONS.
AND, OF COURSE, WE KEPT TALKING.
SO, I MADE SURE THE GOD WAS HAPPY AND WORKED TO MAINTAIN THE PROSPERITY OF MY HOMELAND.

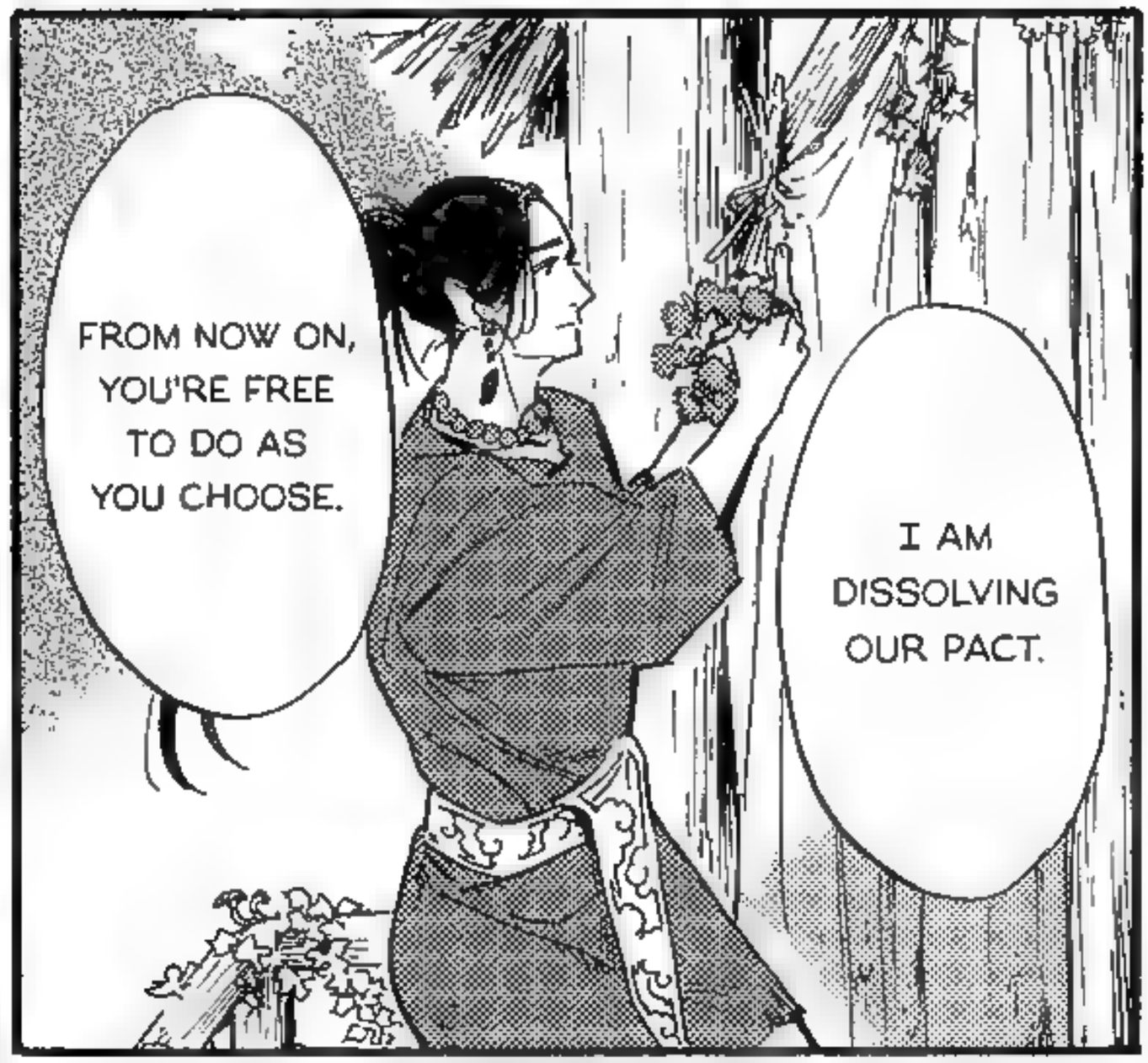
AND TALKED...
WE TALKED...
BUT NOTHING LASTS FOREVER.

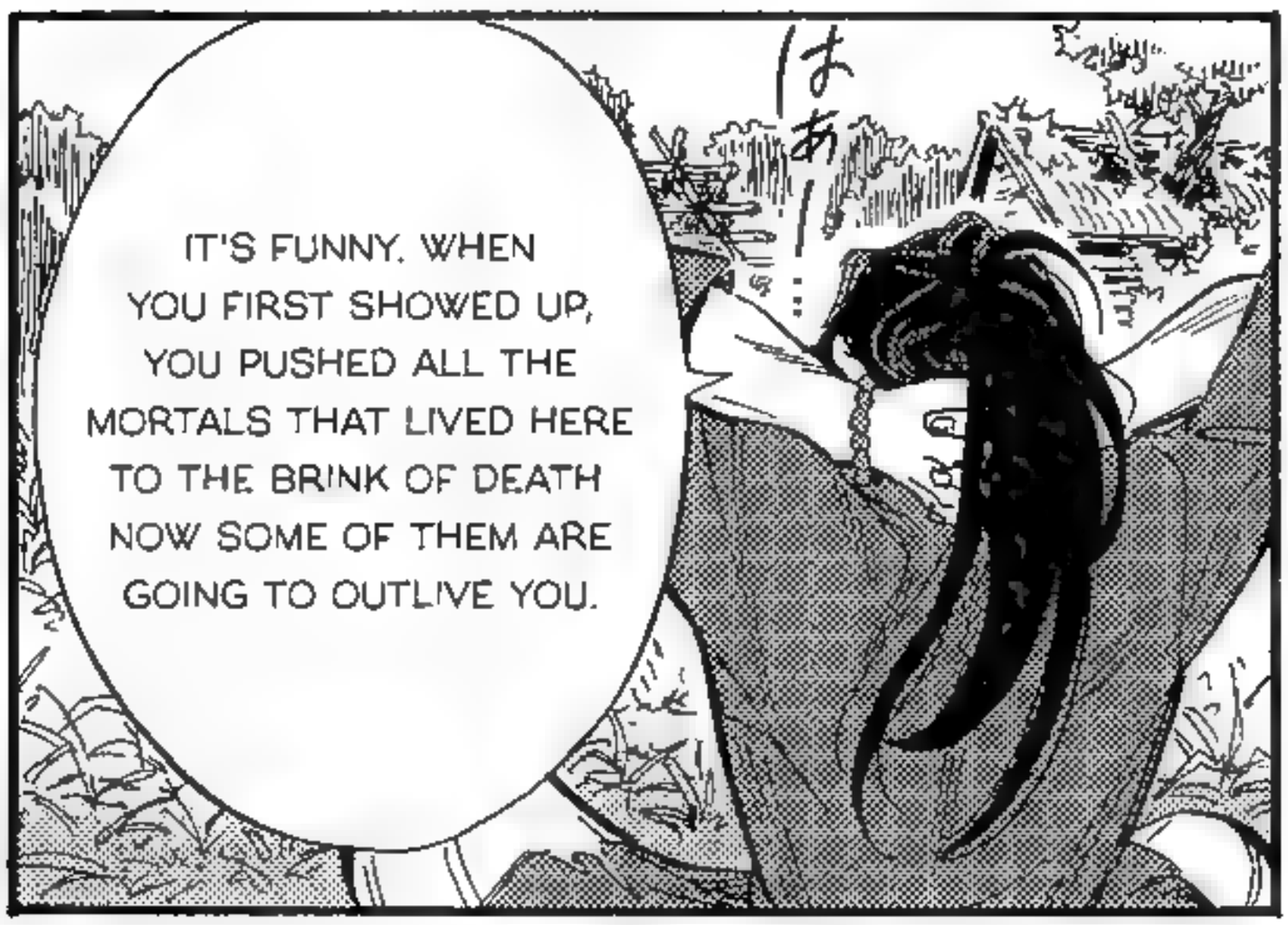
IT SEEMS THAT THIS IS THE END OF MY ROAD.
YAMATO, YOUR HOMELAND HAS FALLEN INTO RUIN AND ALL THOSE WHO ONCE FOLLOWED ME HAVE MOVED ON

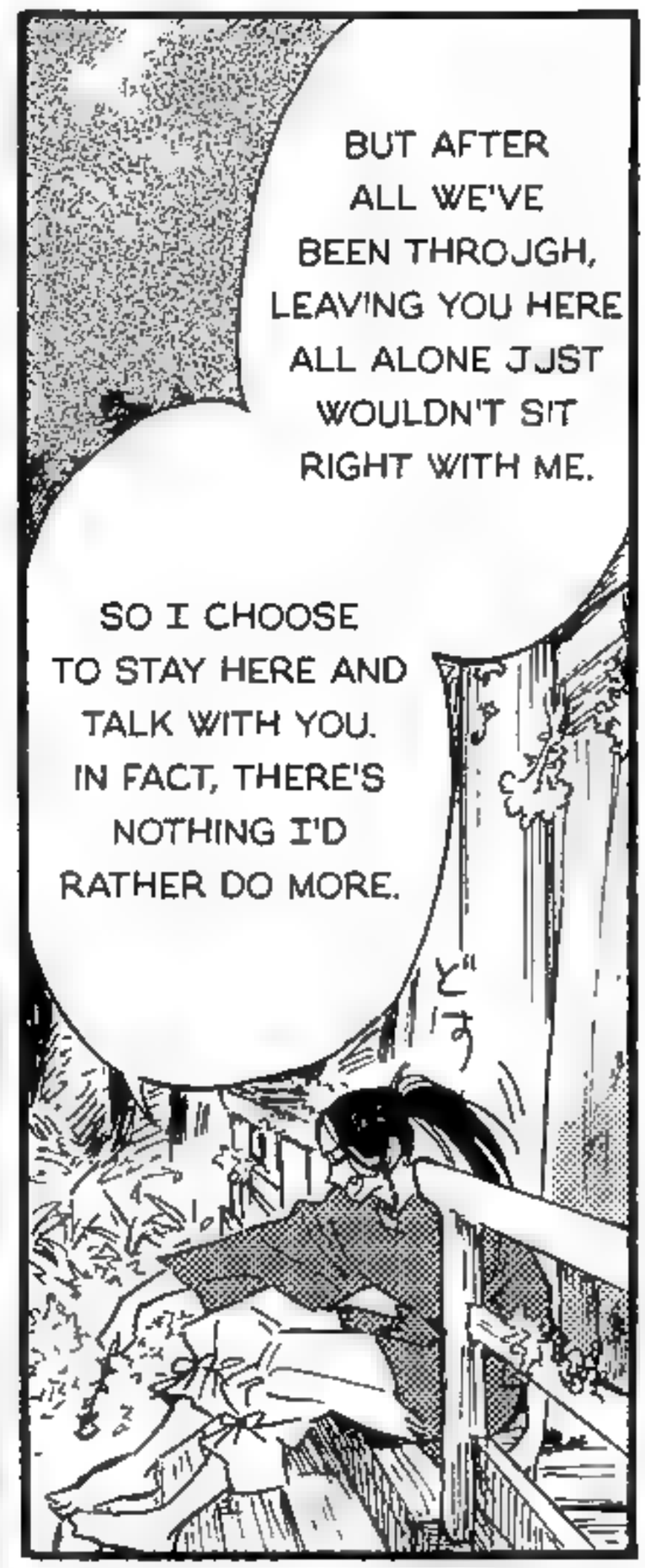

YAMATO...


THERE'S NOTHING LEFT TO DO NOW BUT WAIT FOR DEATH.
THE ONLY THING THAT CAN CHANGE THAT IS A NEW SHRINE FILLED WITH FOLLOWERS.

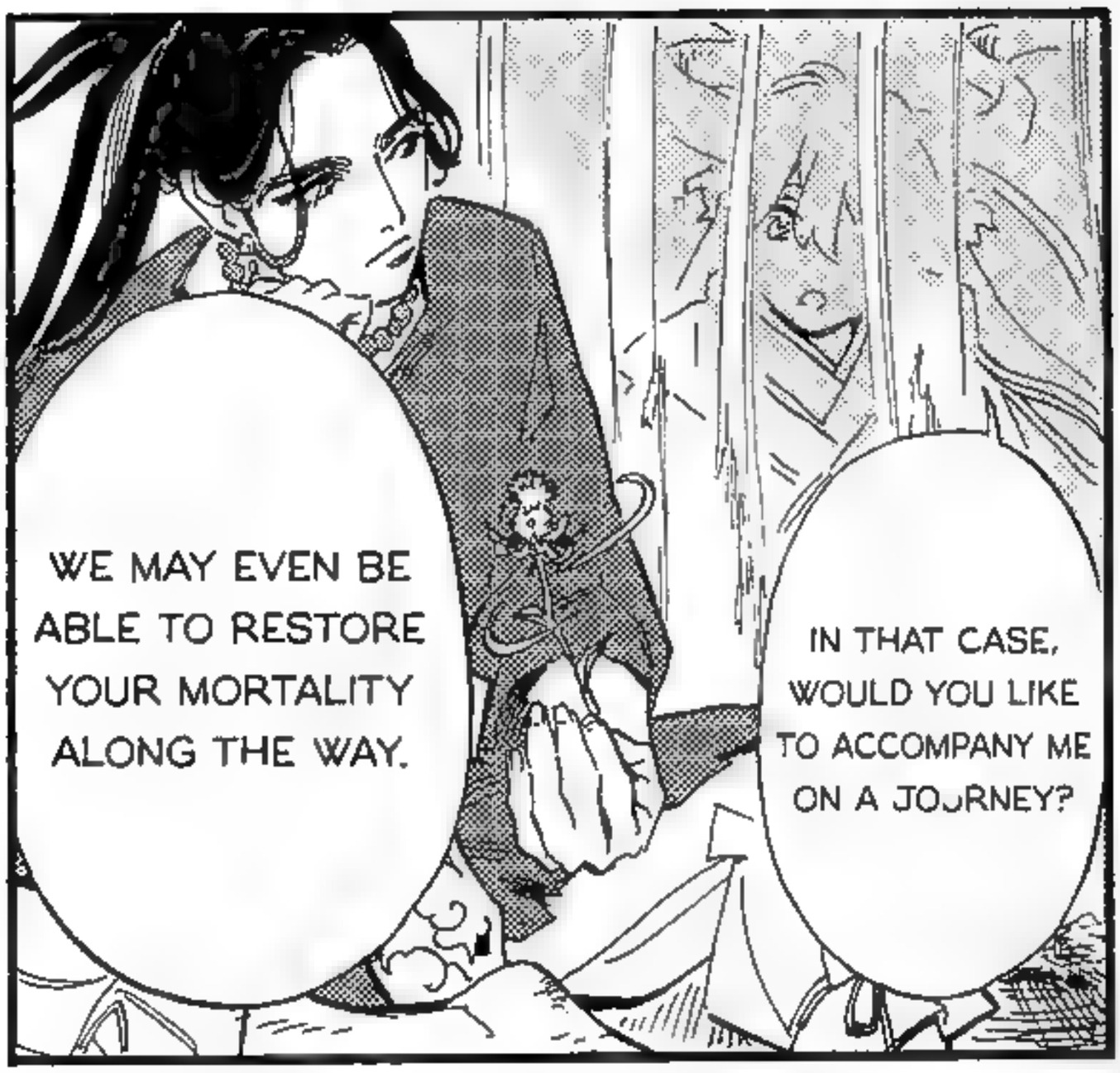

...
WELL, THANKS.

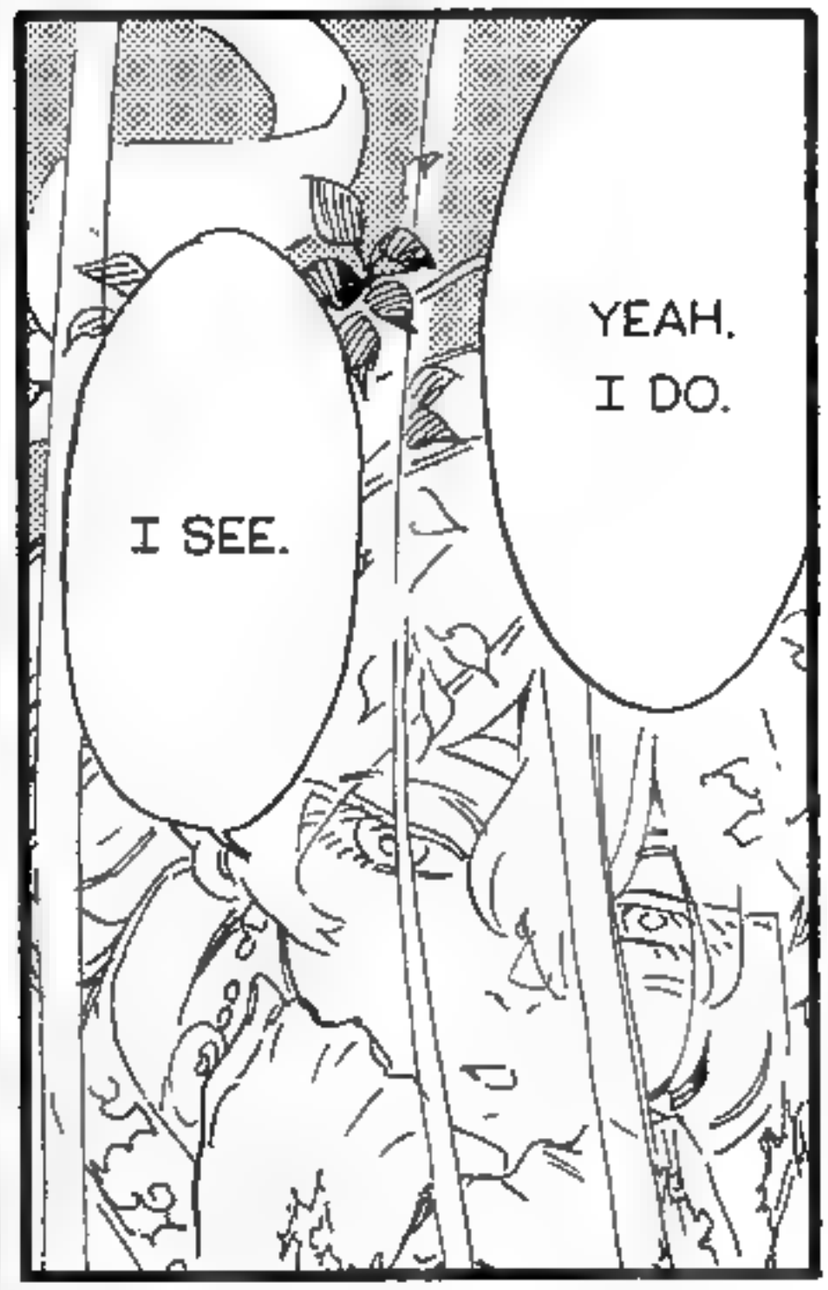

FROM NOW ON, YOU'RE FREE TO DO AS YOU CHOOSE.
I AM DISSOLVING OUR PACT.


IT'S FUNNY. WHEN YOU FIRST SHOWED UP, YOU PUSHED ALL THE MORTALS THAT LIVED HERE TO THE BRINK OF DEATH NOW SOME OF THEM ARE GOING TO OUTLIVE YOU.


BUT AFTER ALL WE'VE BEEN THROJGH, LEAVING YOU HERE ALL ALONE JJST WOULDN'T SIT RIGHT WITH ME.
SO I CHOOSE TO STAY HERE AND TALK WITH YOU. IN FACT, THERE'S NOTHING I'D RATHER DO MORE.

DO YOJ WISH FOR DEATH, YAMATO?

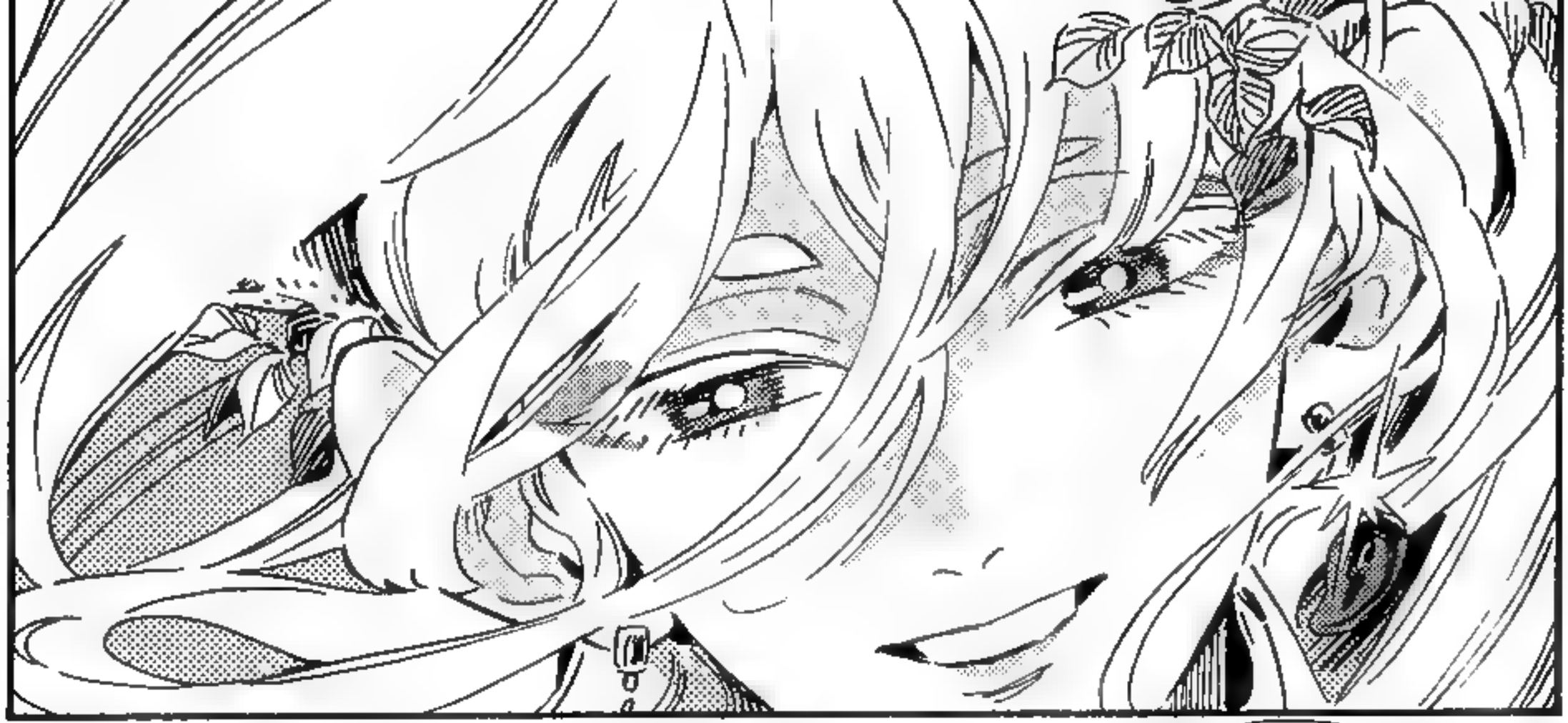

WE MAY EVEN BE ABLE TO RESTORE YOUR MORTALITY ALONG THE WAY.
IN THAT CASE, WOULD YOU LIKE TO ACCOMPANY ME ON A JOURNEY?

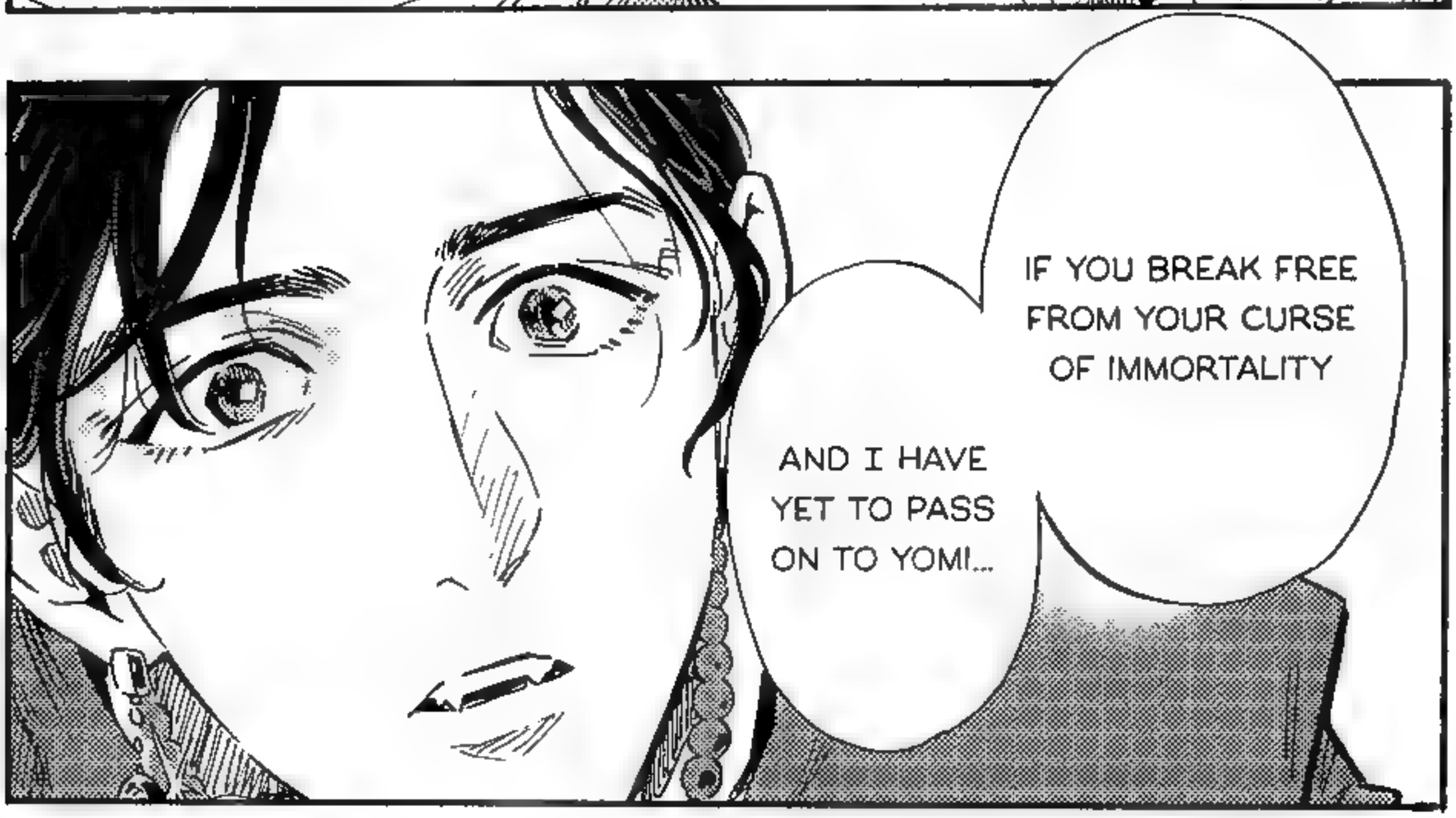

I SEE.
YEAH. I DO.

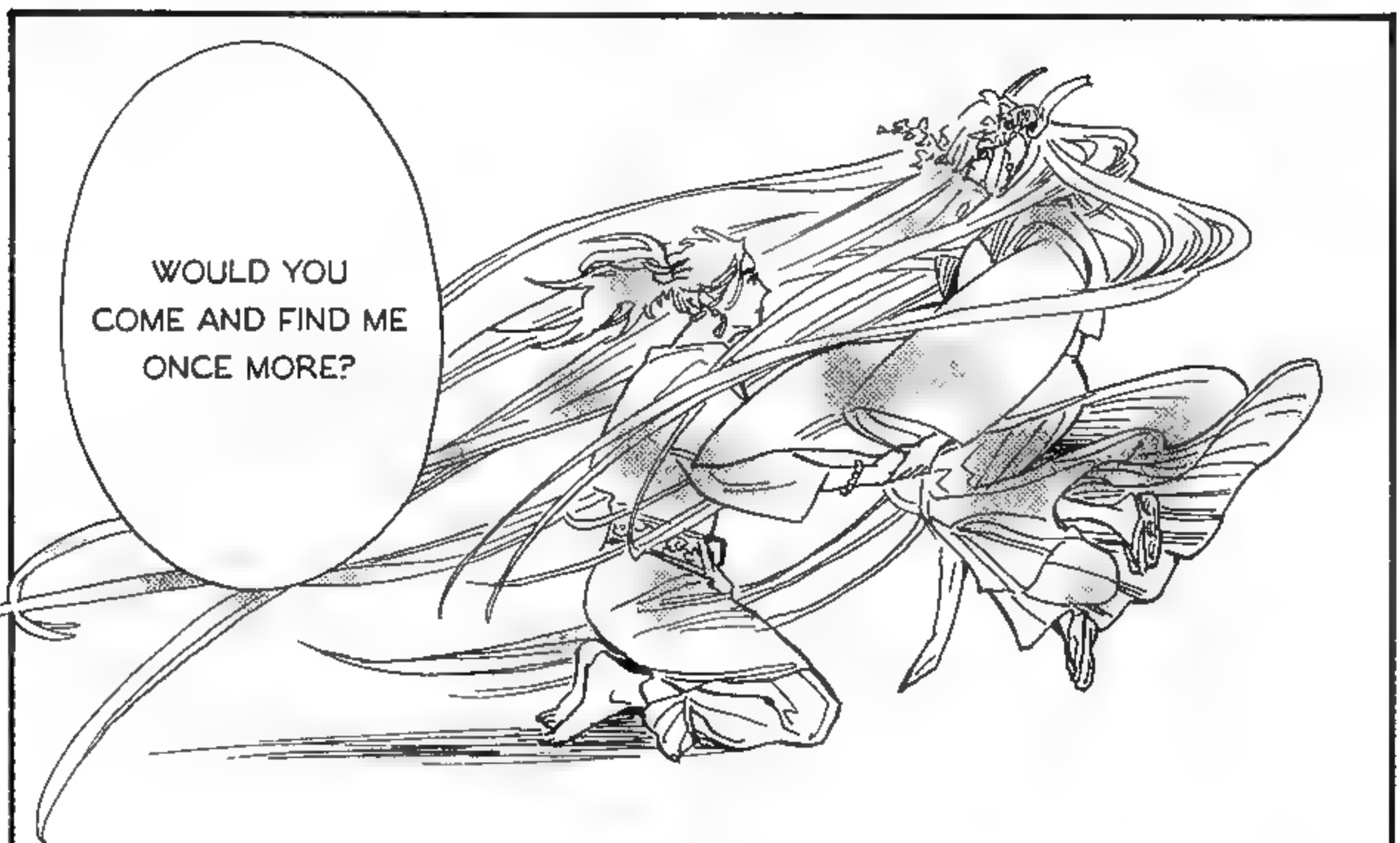
YOU KNOW, IT'S BEEN HUNDREDS OF YEARS AND TRAVEL HASN'T ONCE CROSSED MY MIND.
A JOURNEY?

!

"DEATH."
HUH?
YAMATO...
BUT I WONDER WHAT IT WILL BE LIKE TO EXPERIENCE IT FOR OURSELVES.
WHAT DOES THAT WORD REALLY MEAN? WE'VE CERTAINLY SEEN A LOT OF IT...




IF YOU BREAK FREE FROM YOUR CURSE OF IMMORTALITY
AND I HAVE YET TO PASS ON TO YOMI...


WOULD YOU COME AND FIND ME ONCE MORE?

I WOULD LOVE TO SPEND MY FINAL MOMENTS TALKING WITH YOU AS WE ONCE DID.

NOTHING WOULD MAKE ME HAPPIER!

OOH! IS THAT A PROMISE?

WE'LL FIND EACH OTHER AGAIN.

THEN IT'S SETTLED. WHEN DEATH SEPARATES US...

I'LL DO WHATEVER IT TAKES.

HOW COULD I HAVE FORGOTTEN SOMETHING SO IMPORTANT?

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR KEEPING OUR HISTORY ALIVE,

YAMATO.

死なない男とおさまの。
忘れられかけてた良い良い思い出。
それを取り戻せたことが嬉しい。

【ヒラエスは旅路の果て】第14話／おわり

次号へつづく

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR KEEPING OUR HISTORY ALIVE,

YAMATO.

二人の記憶と想いは、いま繋がった。
この先には……別れの時が待っている。

The end of the journey. ヒラエスは旅路の果て

ヒラエスは旅路の果て

鎌谷悠希

UNTIL SORROW CATCHES UP TO US, LET'S SMILE UNTIL OUR FACES HURT.

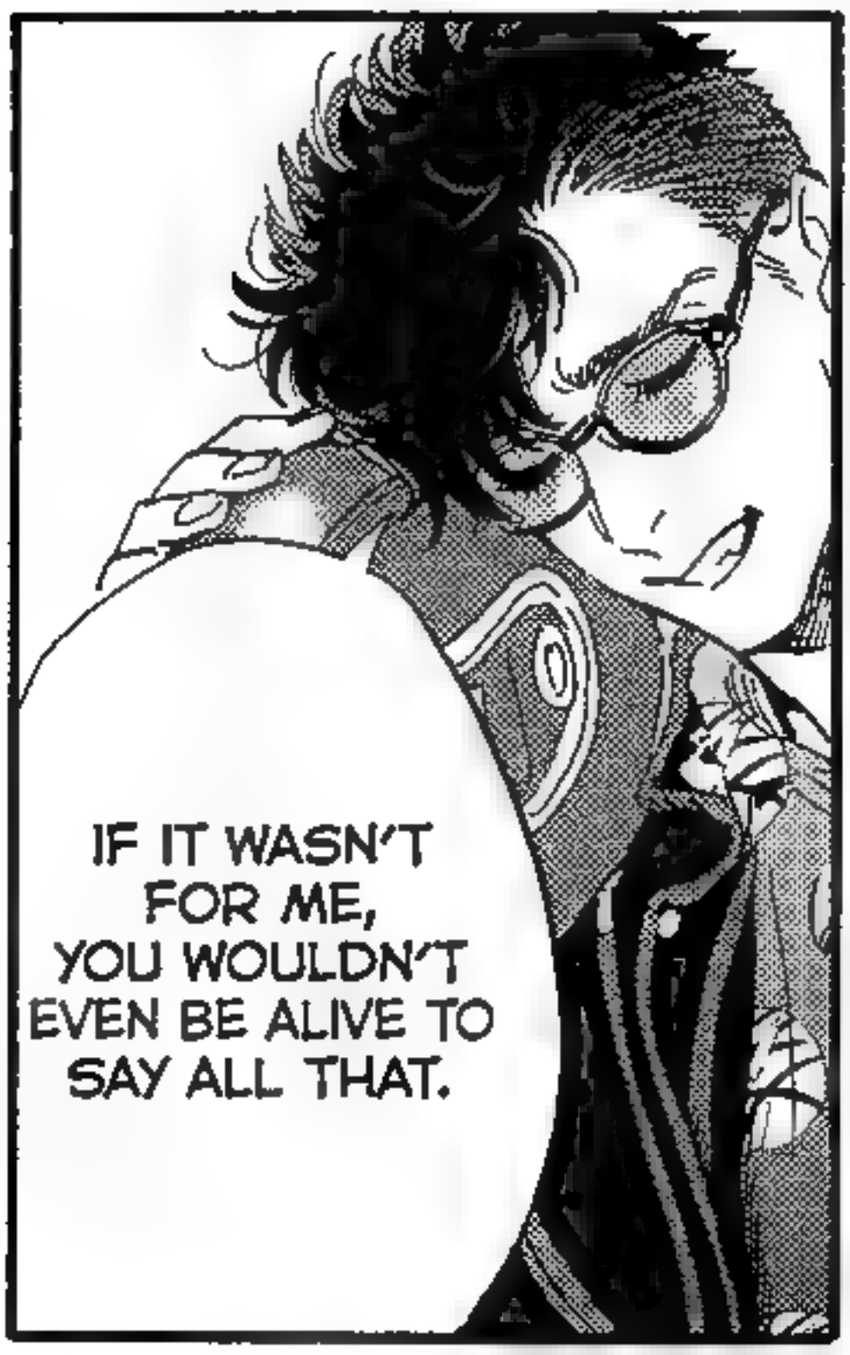
I'M

JUST SO HAPPY I LIVED TO SEE THIS DAY.

NO MATTER HOW MUCH TIME WE HAVE LEFT, LET'S ENJOY IT WITH A SMILE.

コミックス最新1巻、絶賛発売中！

BY THE WAY, HAN!...
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU TWO ARE REALLY SOULMATES!

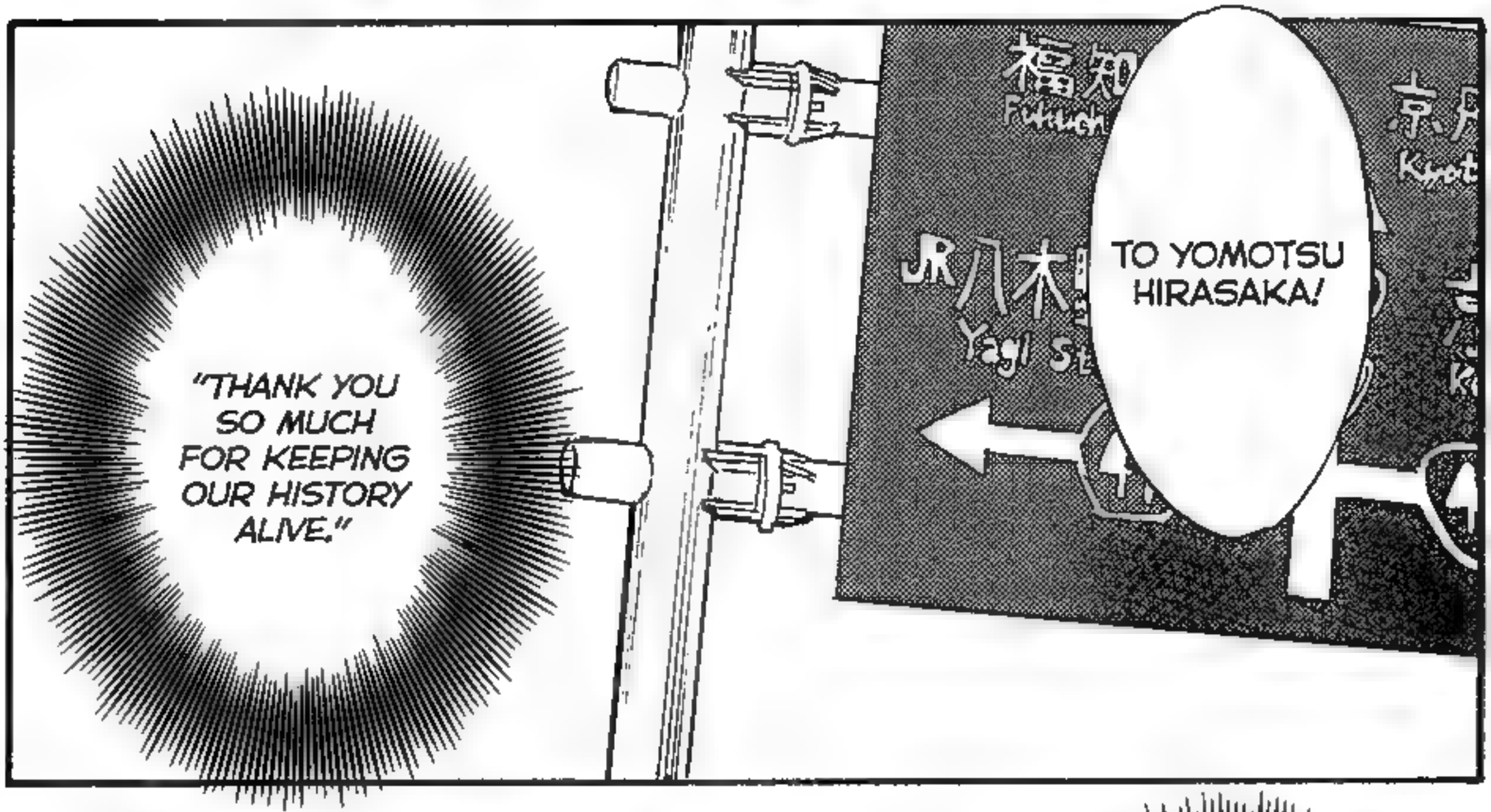

IF IT WASN'T FOR ME, YOU WOULDN'T EVEN BE ALIVE TO SAY ALL THAT.

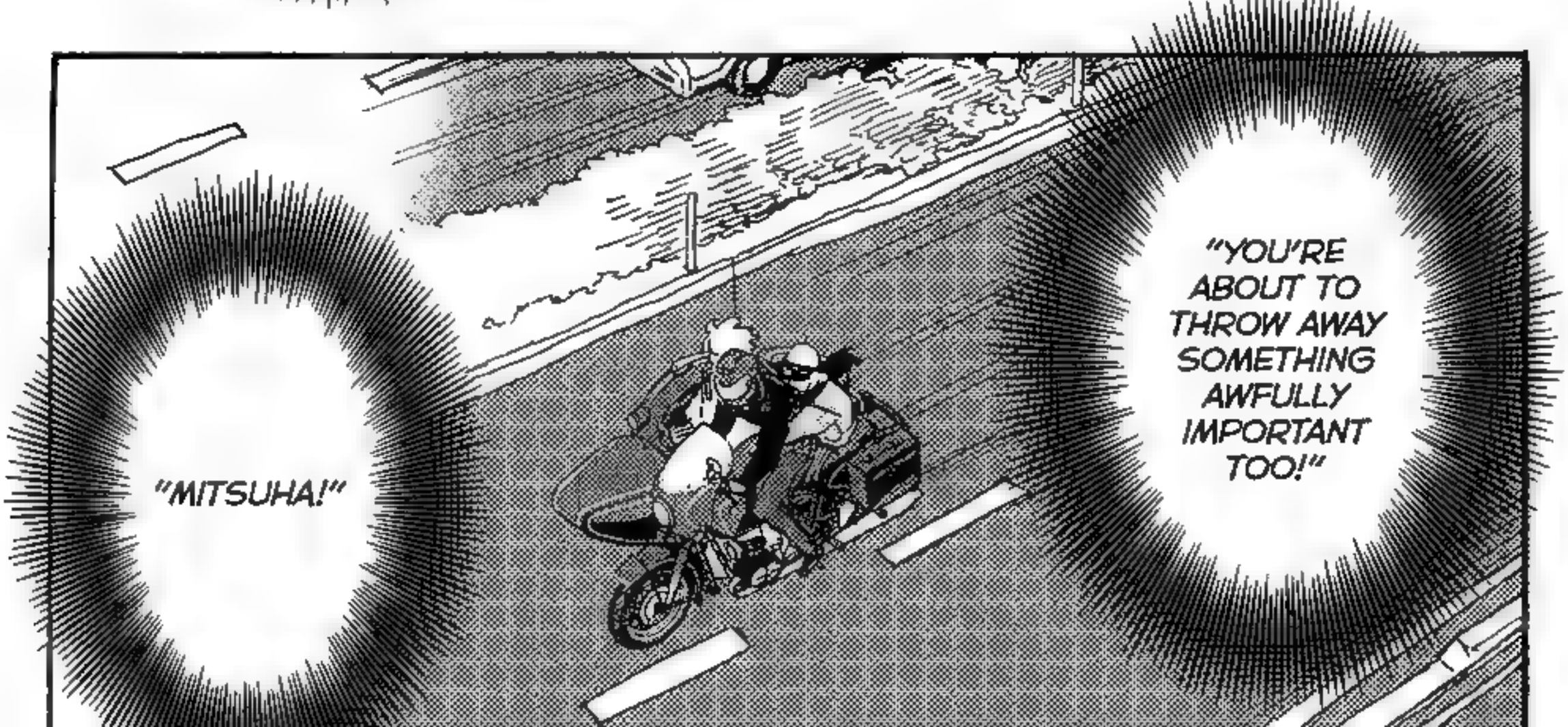
NO KID-DING!
CAN YOU BELIEVE THIS GUY? WHAT KIND OF JERK WOULD ACT LIKE THEY DON'T REMEMBER YOU *AND THEN ALSO* ACTUALLY TRY TO FORGET ABOUT YOU?!
C'MON! I'M NOT ALL BAD! I'VE DONE SOME GOOD STUFF TOO.

Sulk-!
SURE. WHY NOT? THANKS FOR SUMMARIZING IT SO ELEGANTLY.
He was like a little kid!
SO *THAT'S* WHY YOU SPENT ALL THAT TIME SULKING AROUND!
IT'S A PRETTY HEAVY BURDEN TO BEAR SOLO!
AND Y'KNOW... IT'S HARD WORK KEEPING THE LEGACIES OF SO MANY PEOPLE ALIVE.

OKAY, LET'S GET A MOVE ON!

Eh, look who's talking.


"THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR KEEPING OUR HISTORY ALIVE."
TO YOMOTSU HIRASAKA!


"MITSUHA!"
"YOU'RE ABOUT TO THROW AWAY SOMETHING AWFULLY IMPORTANT TOO!"

MITSUHA ISN'T REALLY DEAD UNTIL THERE'S NO ONE LEFT ALIVE TO REMEMBER HER.
BUT WHO WILL KEEP HER MEMORY ALIVE AFTER I'M GONE?
I'M SURE THERE'S PLENTY OF OTHER PEOPLE LEFT TO TAKE UP THE MANTLE.
HER PARENTS, TEACHERS, AND FRIENDS ALL STILL HAVE THEIR OWN MEMORIES OF HER.
BUT NONE OF THEM KNEW MY MITSUHA. THAT VERSION WILL DIE WITH ME.

hnng

ACTUALLY, IT'LL BE MORE THAN JUST MITSUHA.

Chirp

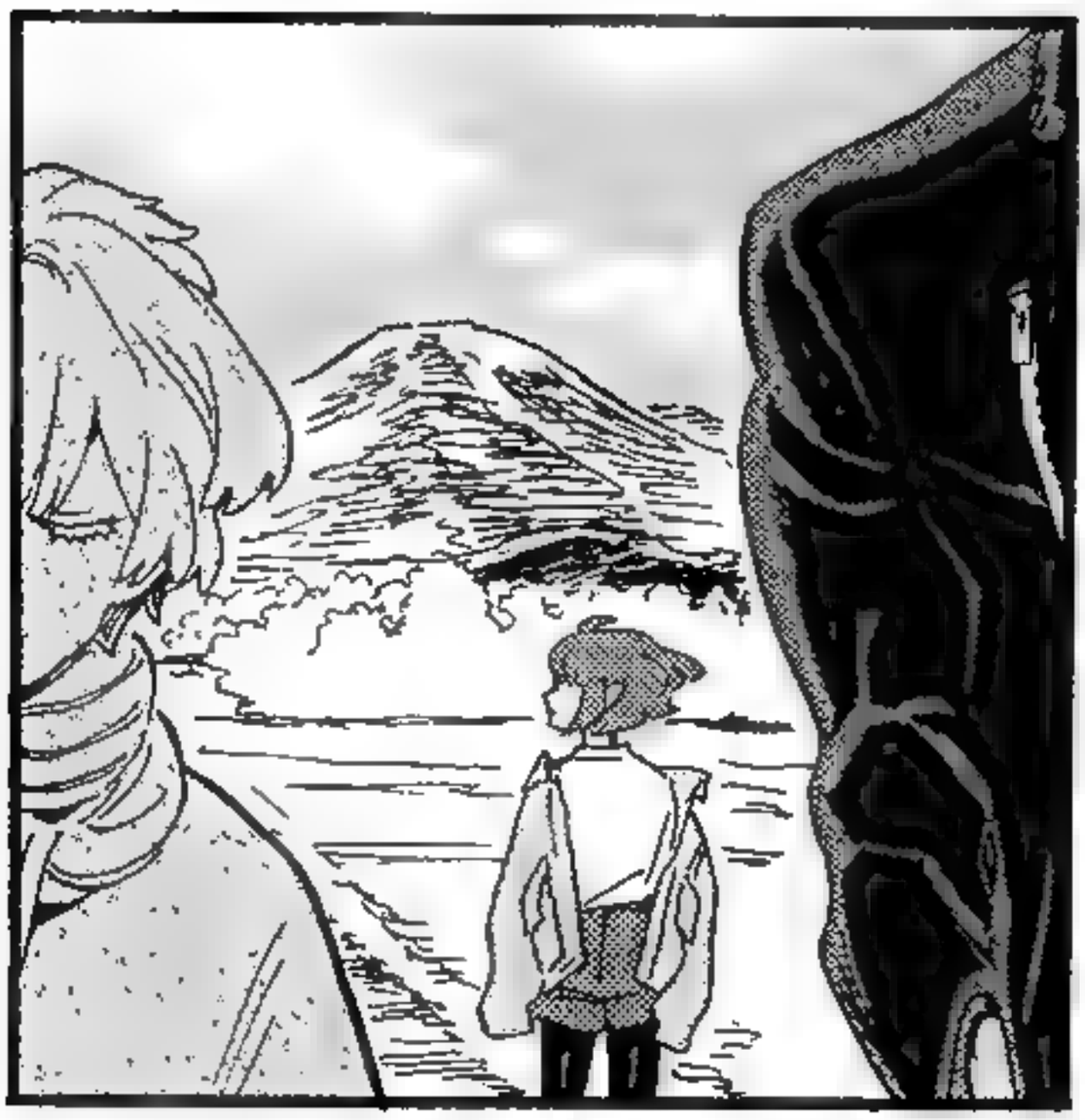
THAT SOUNDS AWFUL!

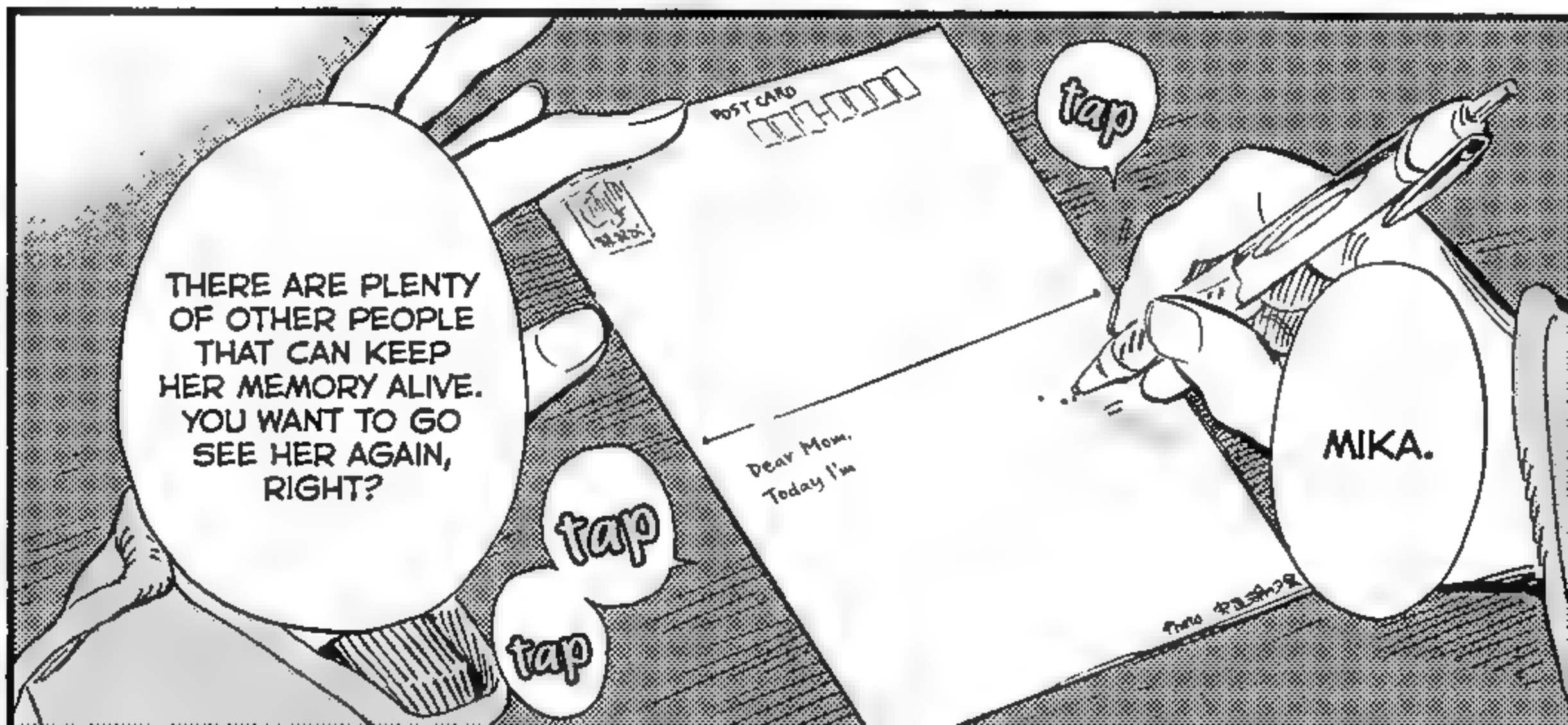
THE WHOLE WORLD AS I SEE IT WILL VANISH.

BUT AT THE SAME TIME...

ONCE I'M REUNITED WITH MITSUHA IN YOMI...
IT'S HARD WORK KEEPING ALL THESE MEMORIES ALIVE.
DOES IT REALLY MATTER IF ANYONE ELSE REMEMBERS HER?
THERE'S MORE TO LIFE THAN JUST REMEMBERING THE PEOPLE WHO ARE FINISHED WITH IT, RIGHT?
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT...
WHY DOES EVERYONE PUT SO MUCH EFFORT INTO REMEMBERING THE DEAD?

THEY MIGHT LIVE ON IN YOUR HEART, BUT THEY'RE NOT REALLY ALIVE, ARE THEY?





KEEP MOVING FORWARD.

DON'T GIVE UP.

C'MON, MIKA!

HAVE FAITH.

BELIEVE IN THE ROAD TO DEATH.

LET'S GO!

ACCEPT WHAT'LL HAPPEN WHEN YOU REACH THE END.
TRUST THAT THE DEAD ARE WAITING FOR YOU THERE.
AND IF YOU START TO LOSE FAITH IN YOMI'S EXISTENCE OR YOUR ABILITY TO MAKE IT THERE, JUST THINK ABOUT US.

AND HANI, THE REAL LIFE GOD.

YOUR IMMORTAL PAL HIBINO

I WILL!

OF COURSE I WILL!

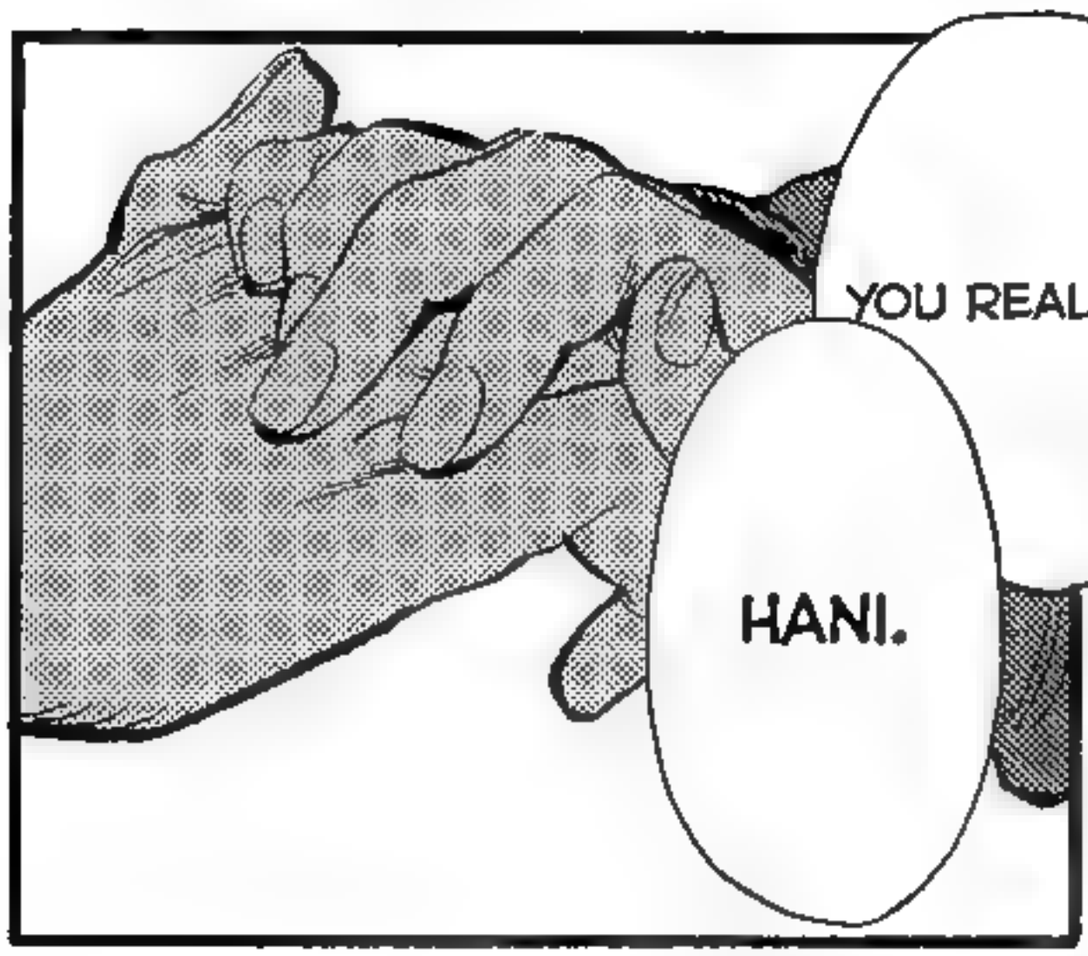
GREAT!

WOAH!

MY MY, THANK YOU.
...BETTER GET A MOVE ON.

IT'LL REALLY BE OVER SOON.

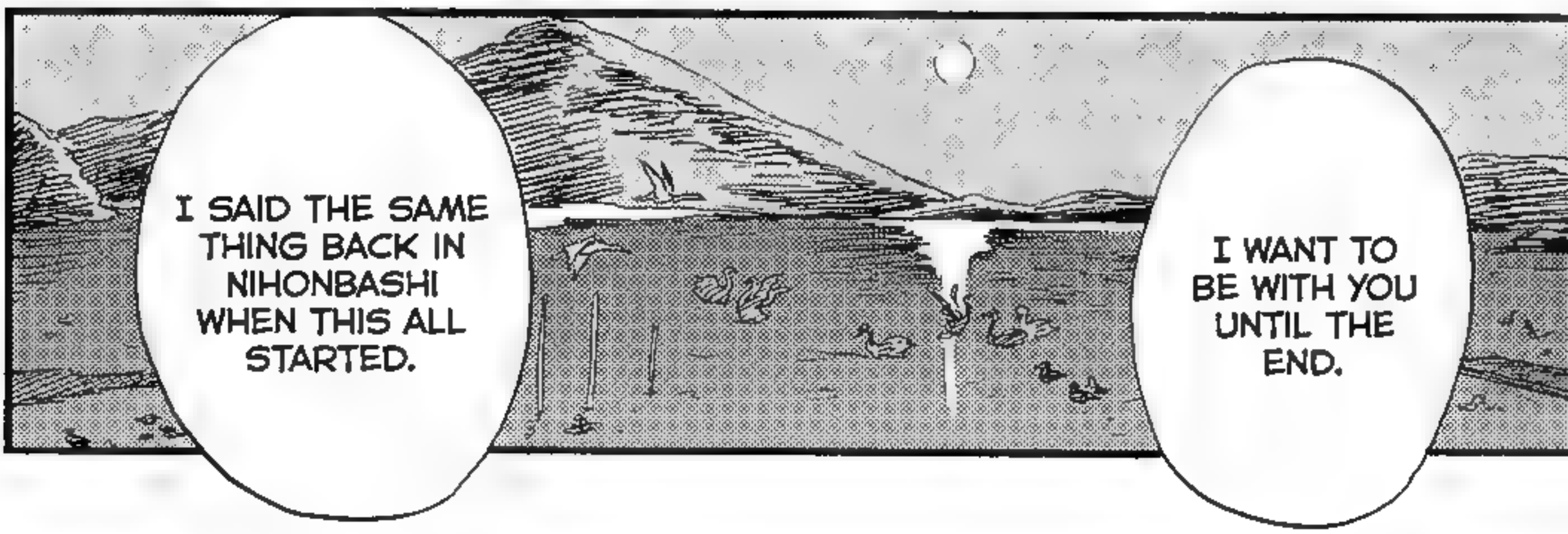
YEAH.
I'LL BE FINE.
NOT MUCH FARTHER NOW! WILL YOU BE OKAY?
OUR JOURNEY IS COMING TO AN END.


YOU REALLY...
HANI.

ER... YAMATO.
HEY, HIBINO...

DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME.

IT'S FINE.


I SAID THE SAME THING BACK IN NIHONBASHI WHEN THIS ALL STARTED.
I WANT TO BE WITH YOU UNTIL THE END.

This way to Yomi
Yomotsu Hirasaka
300 meters

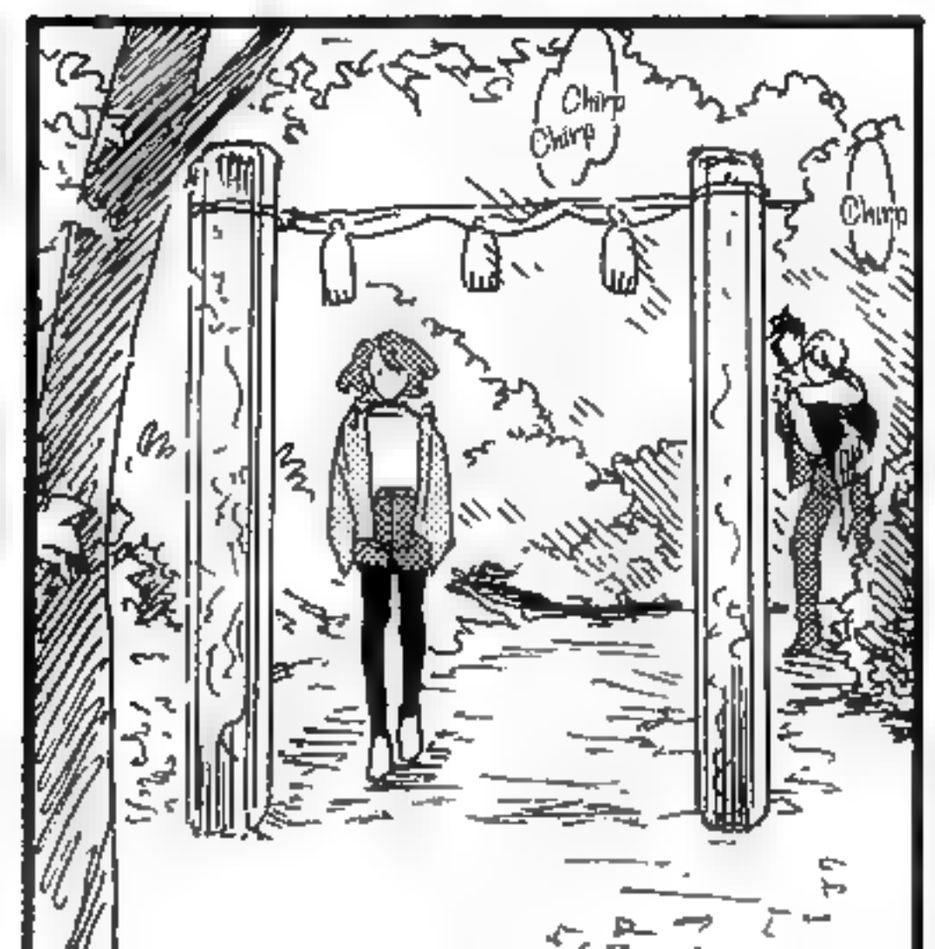
黄泉比良坂
Yomotsu-hirasaka 0.4km

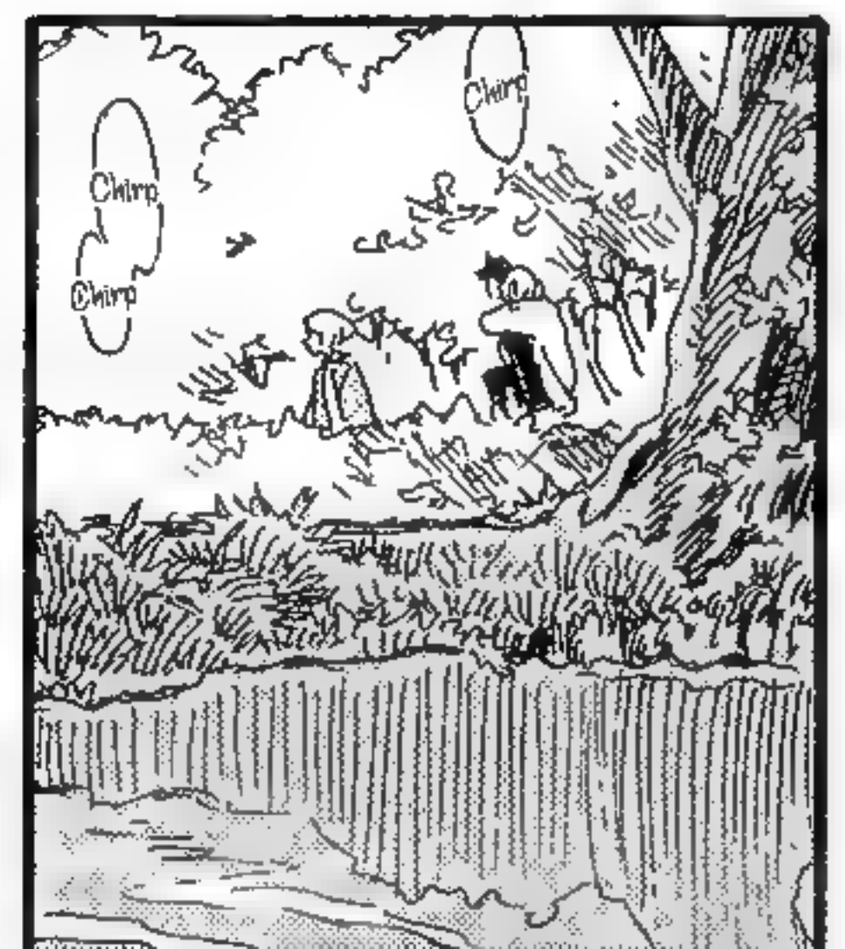
WE SURE HAVE COME A LONG WAY.

黄泉比良坂

黄泉比良坂
御

I DIDN'T EXPECT THE SIGNAGE TO BE SO... EXTENSIVE.

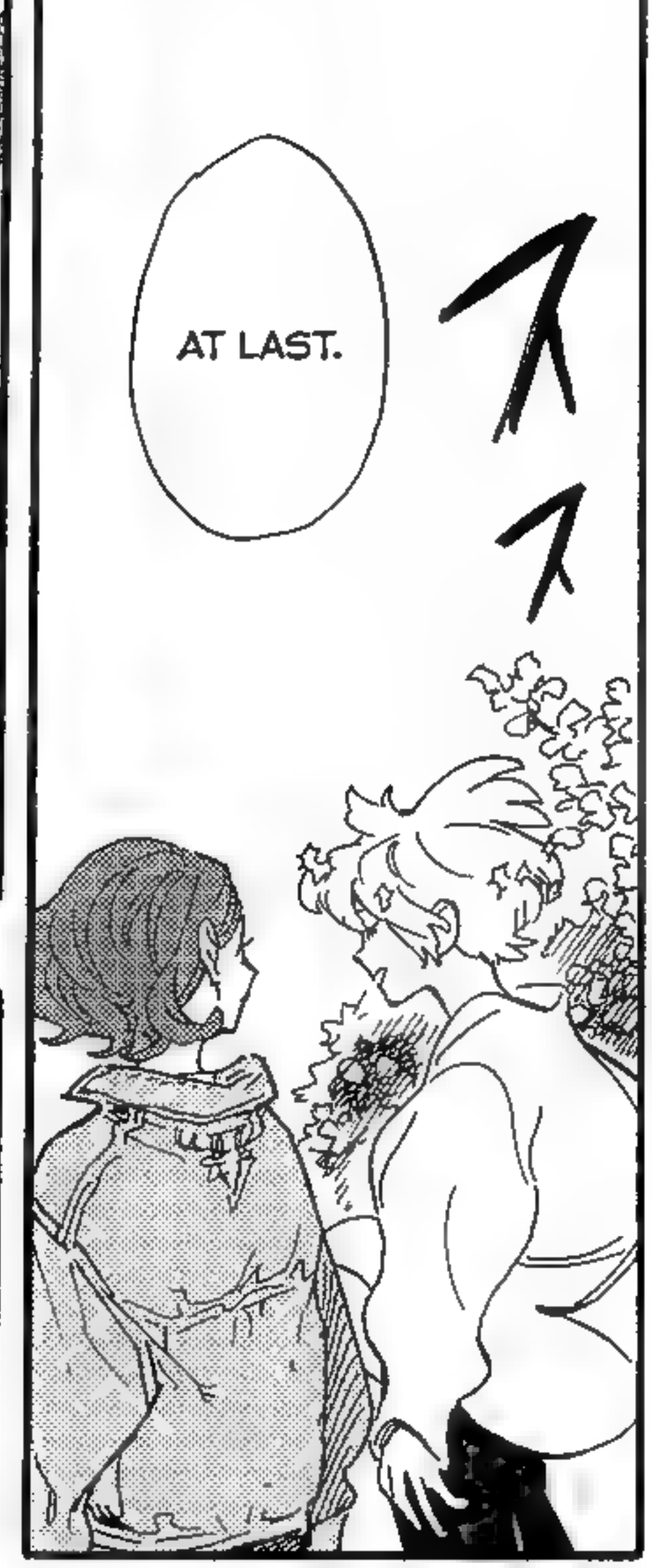


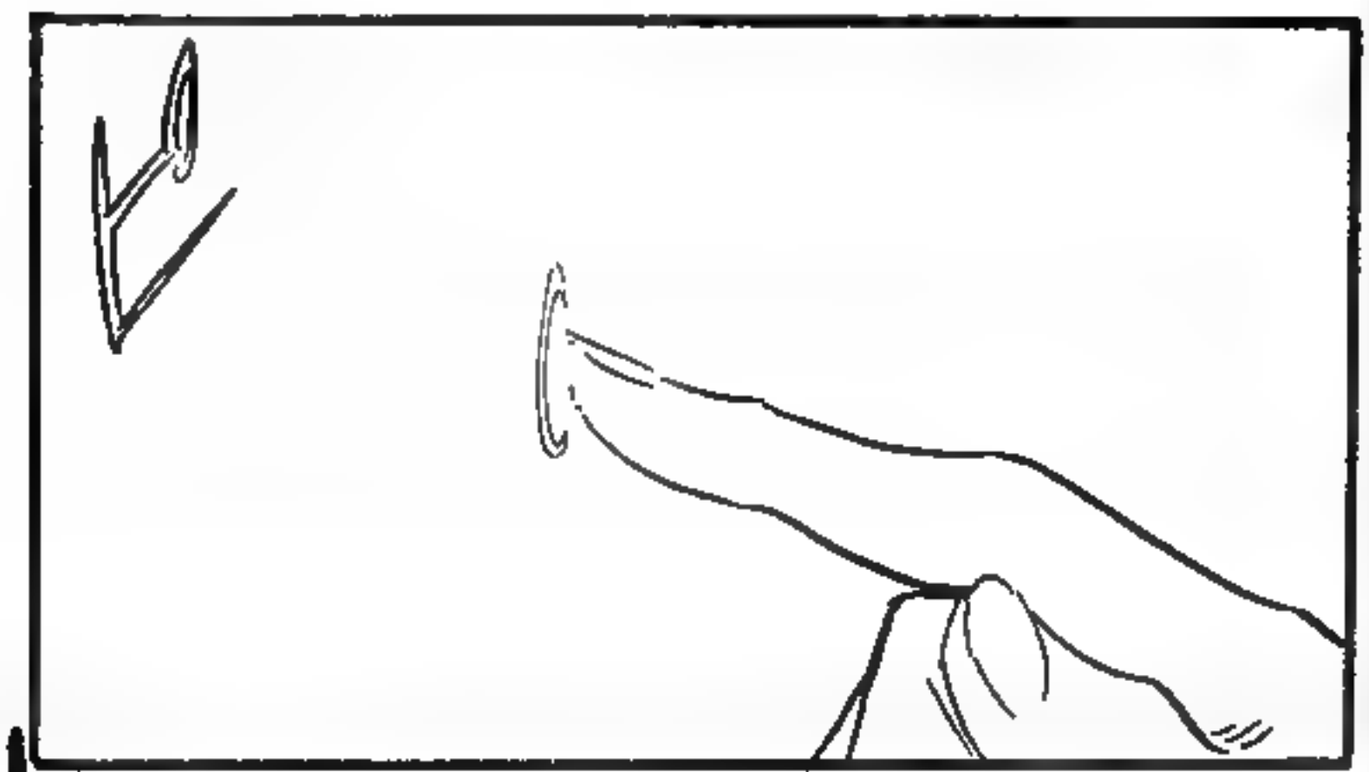


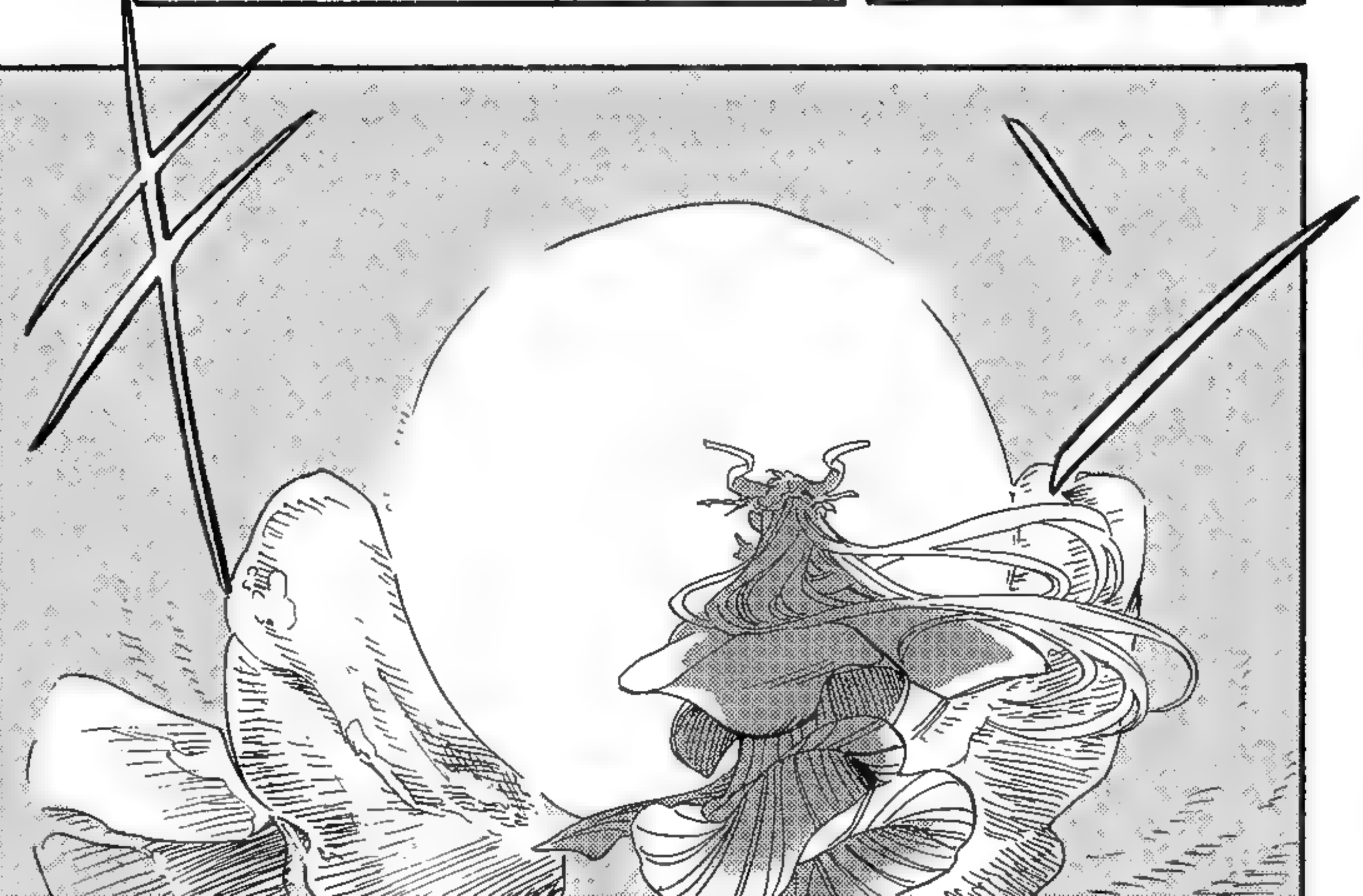
YOMOTSU HIRASAKA.

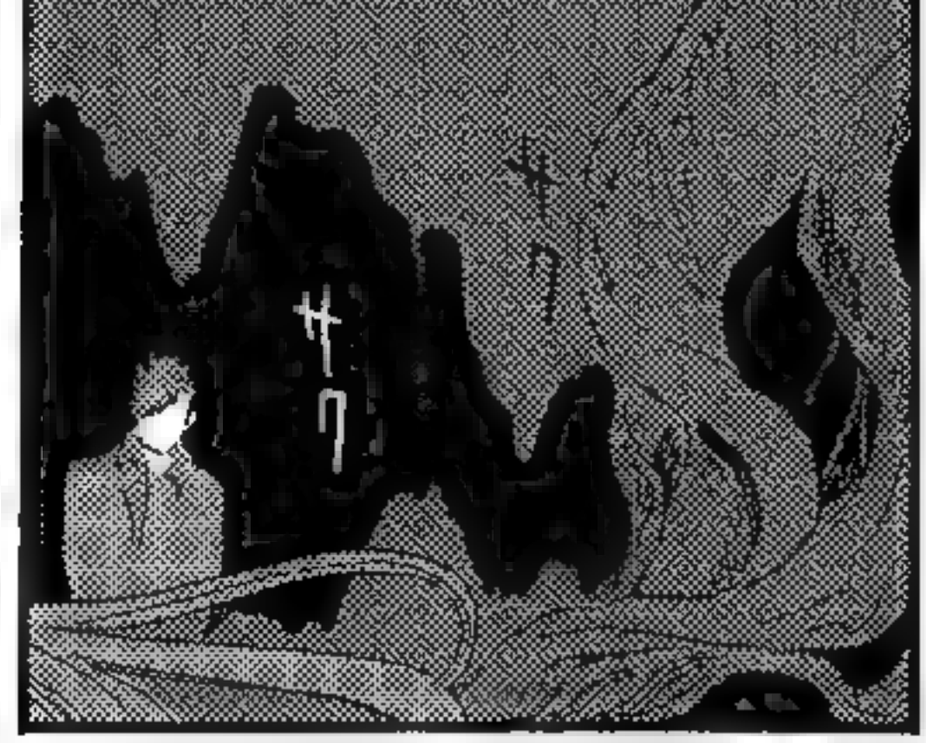
THIS IS IT...

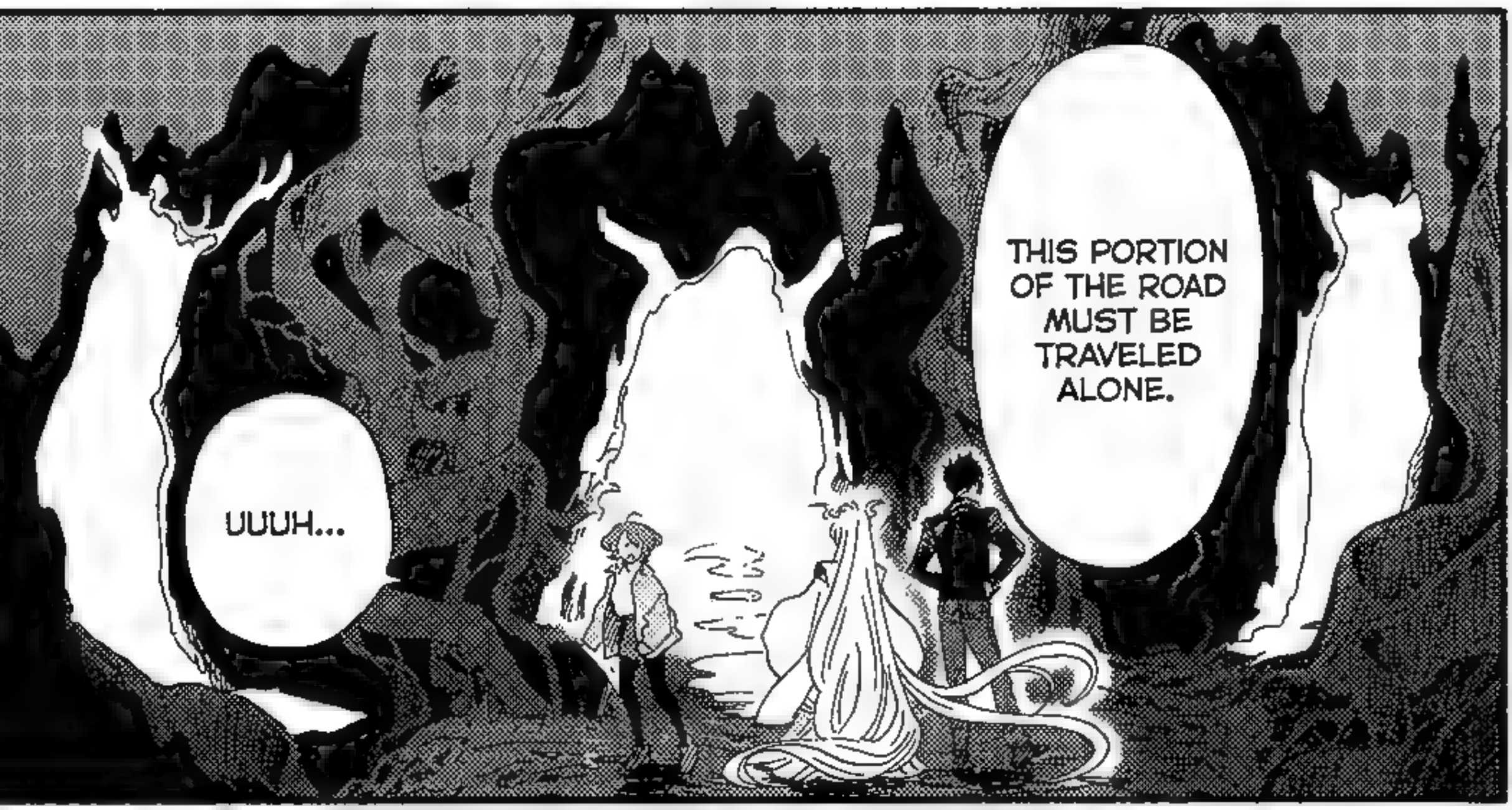
I'VE MADE IT.

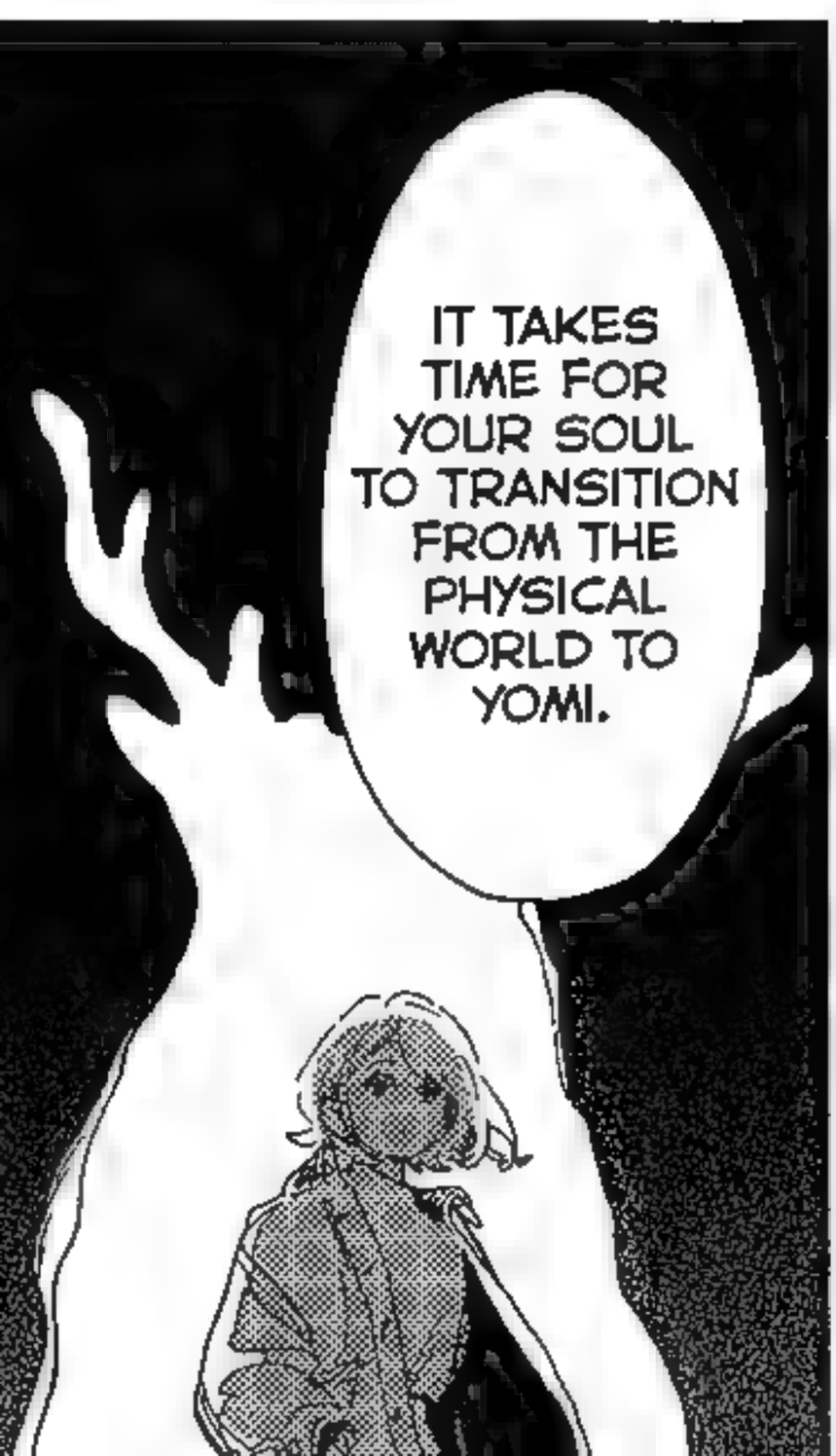

AT LAST.








UUUH...
THIS PORTION OF THE ROAD MUST BE TRAVELED ALONE.

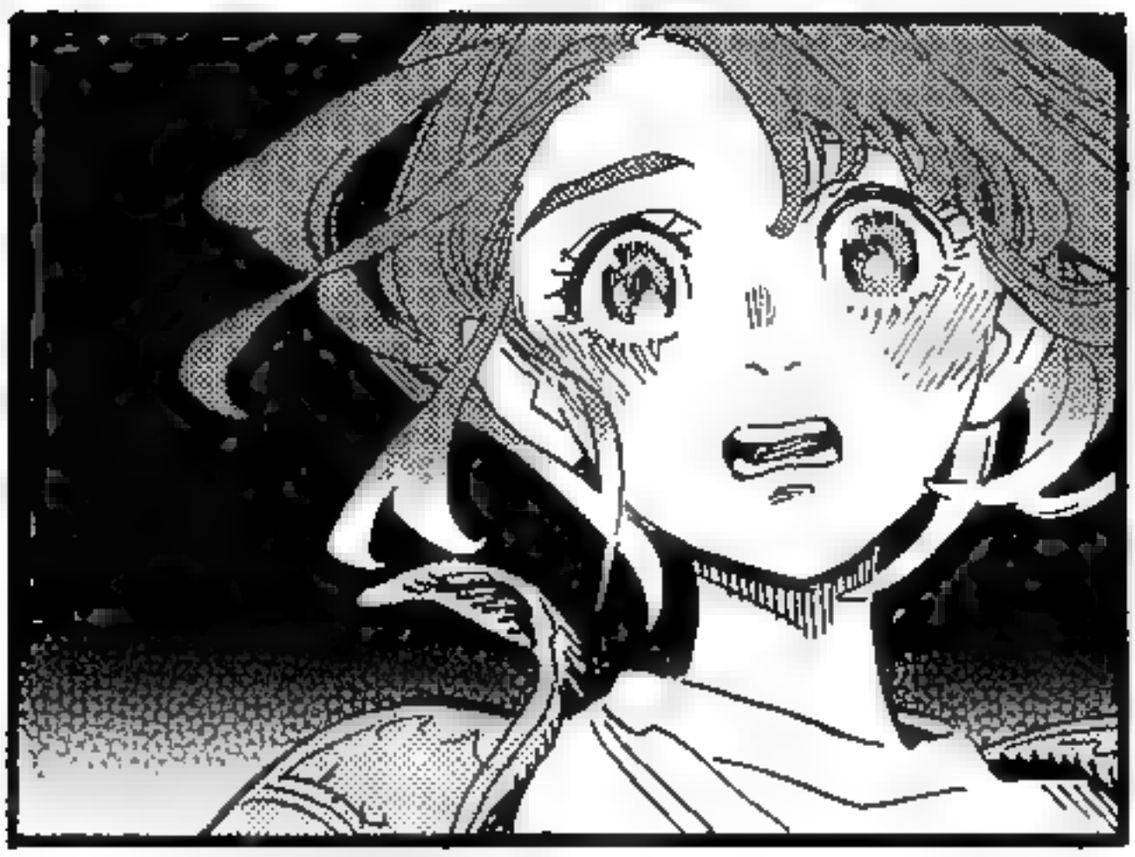

IT TAKES TIME FOR YOUR SOUL TO TRANSITION FROM THE PHYSICAL WORLD TO YOMI.

JUST KEEP MOVING FORWARD.

WHATEVER YOU DO, DON'T LOOK BACK.

WELL THEN,
I'M OFF.

HUMANS JUST TAKE A LITTLE LONGER TO GET THERE.
DON'T WORRY, WE'LL ALL END UP IN THE SAME PLACE.

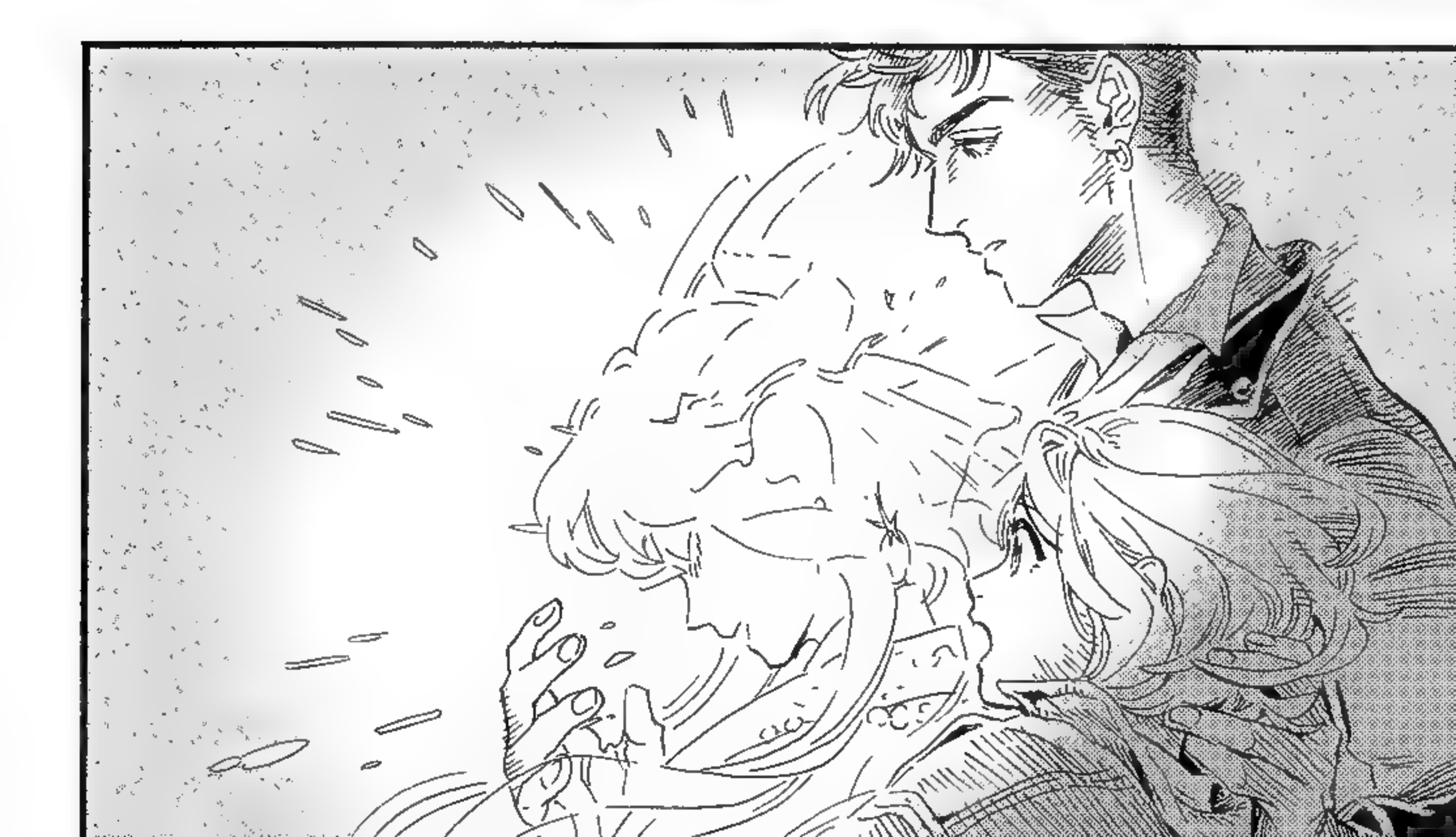


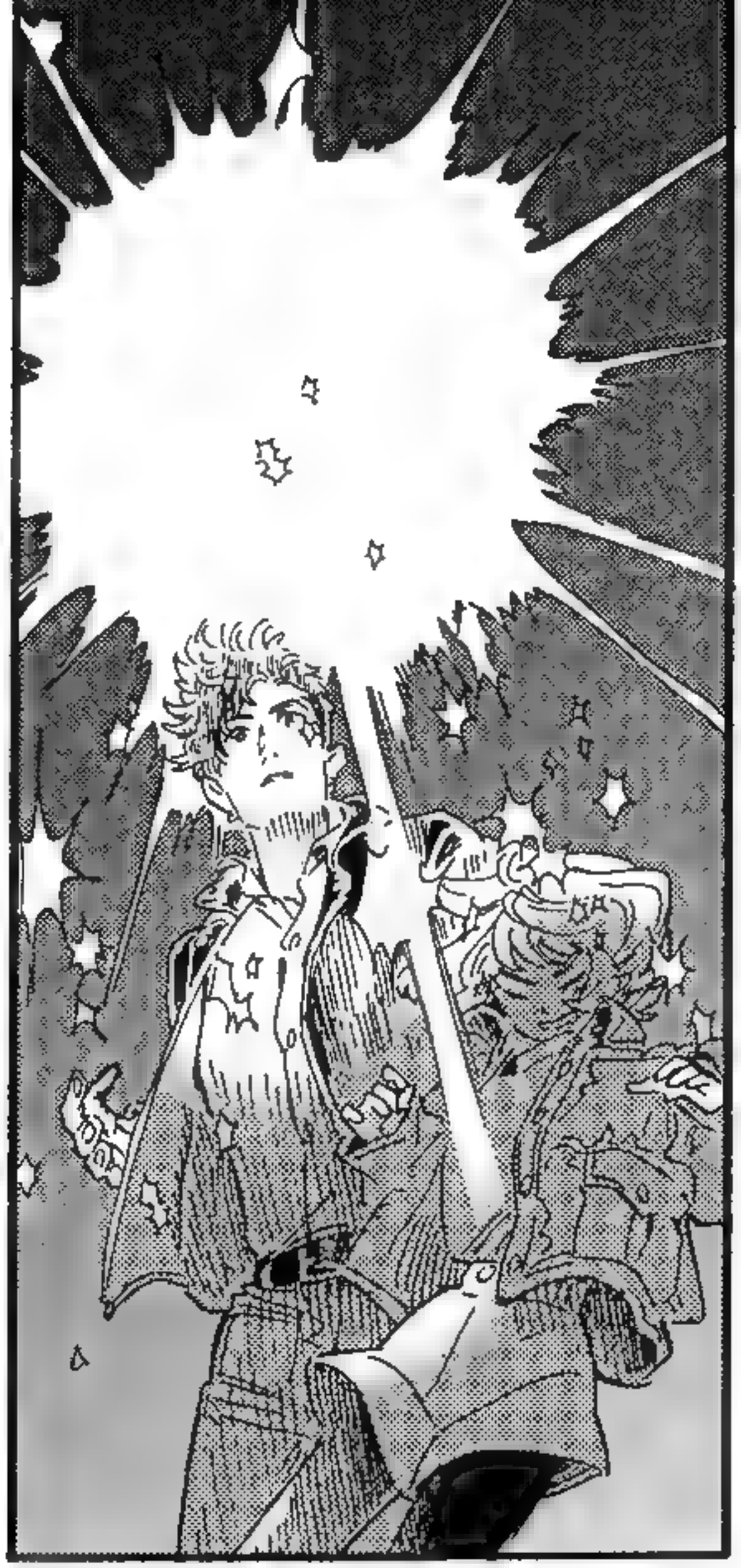
HANI!

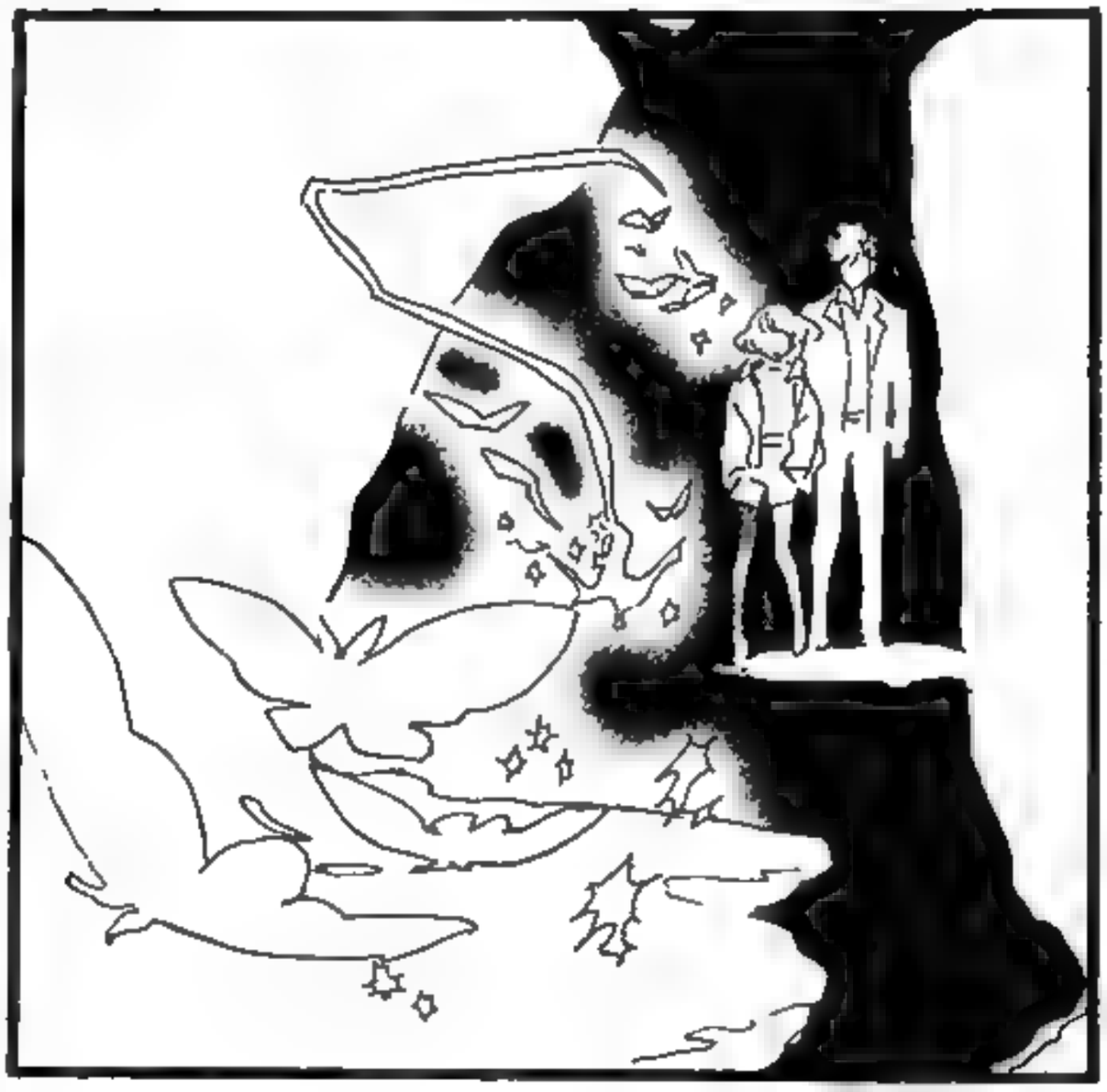
MIKA.

HANI.

THANK YOU.



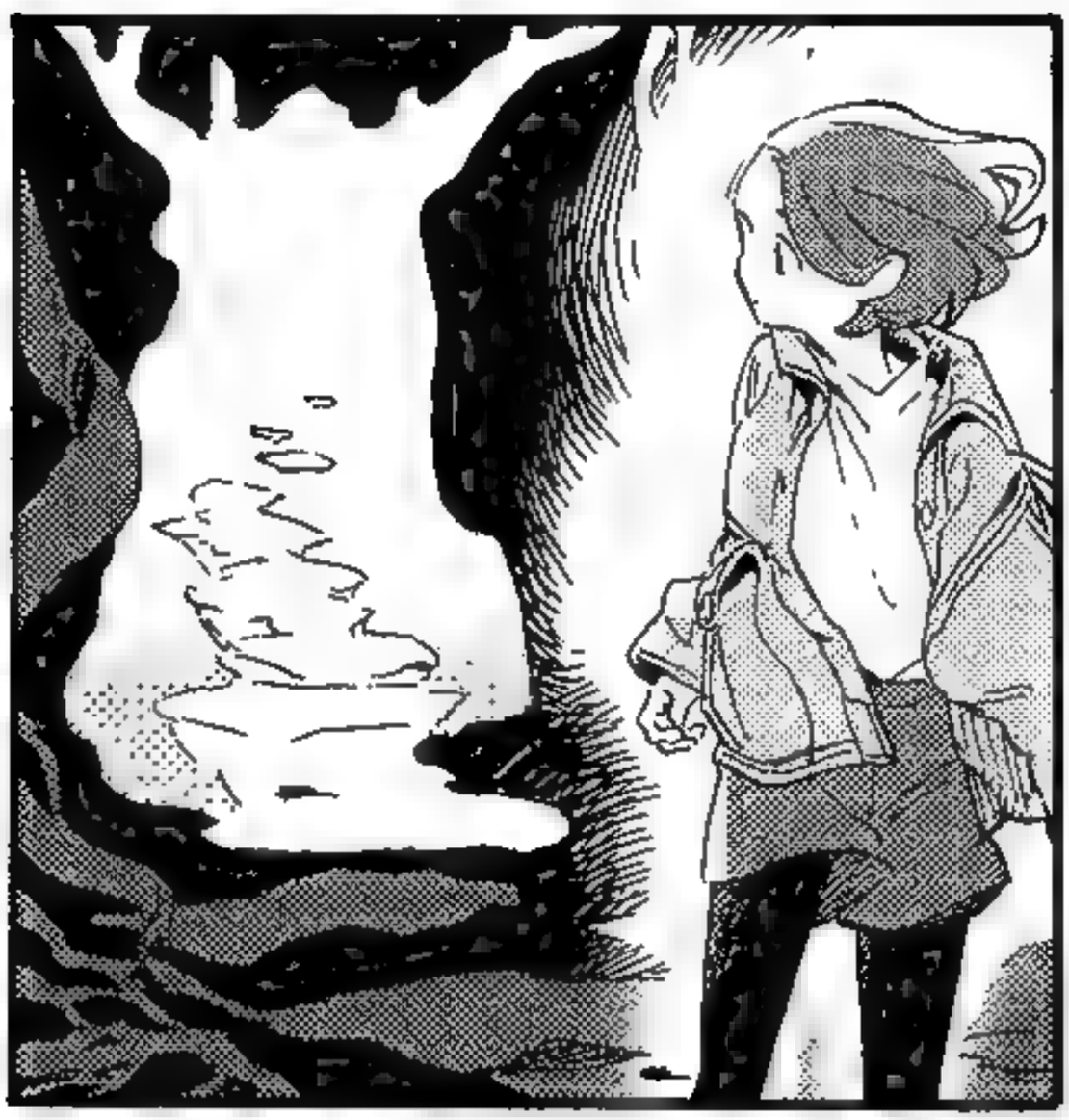


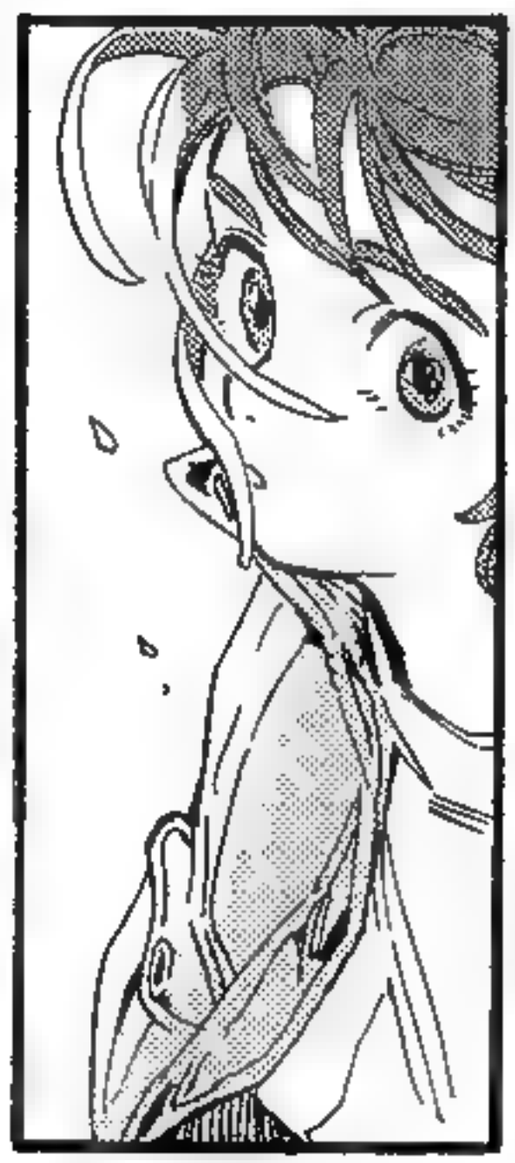


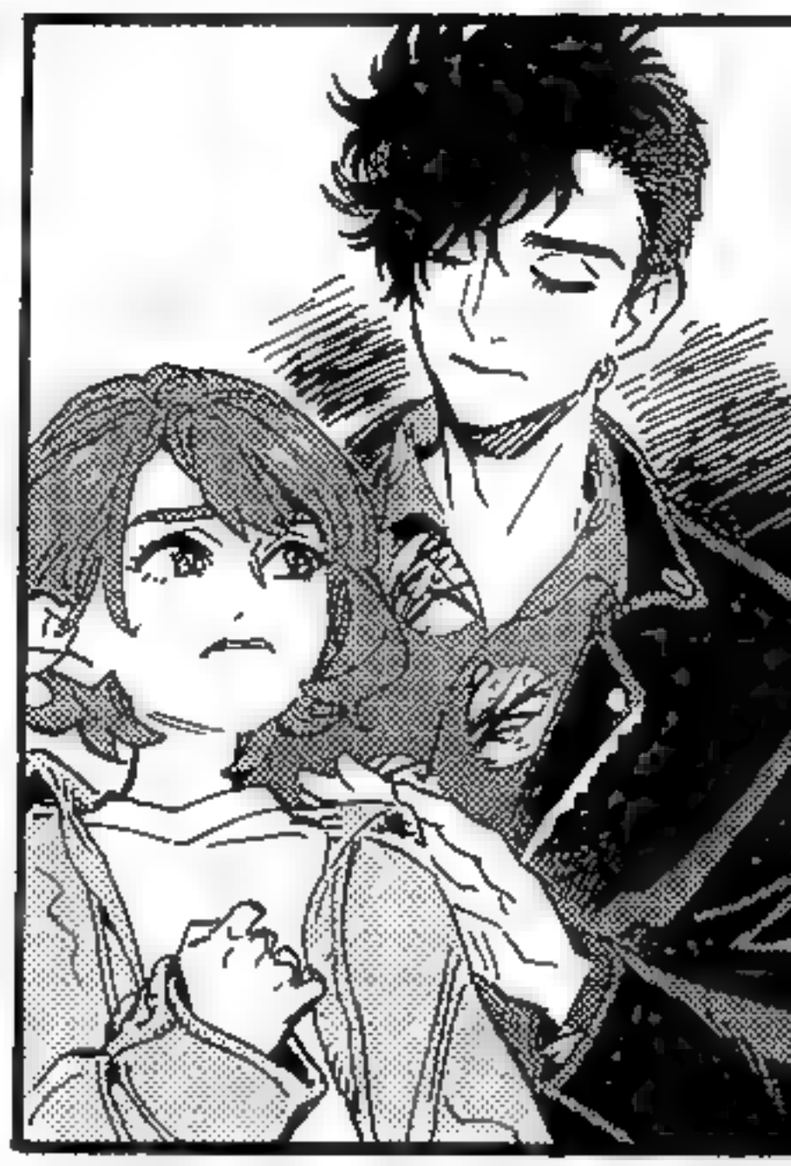
HIBINO.

HANI'S

DEAD.

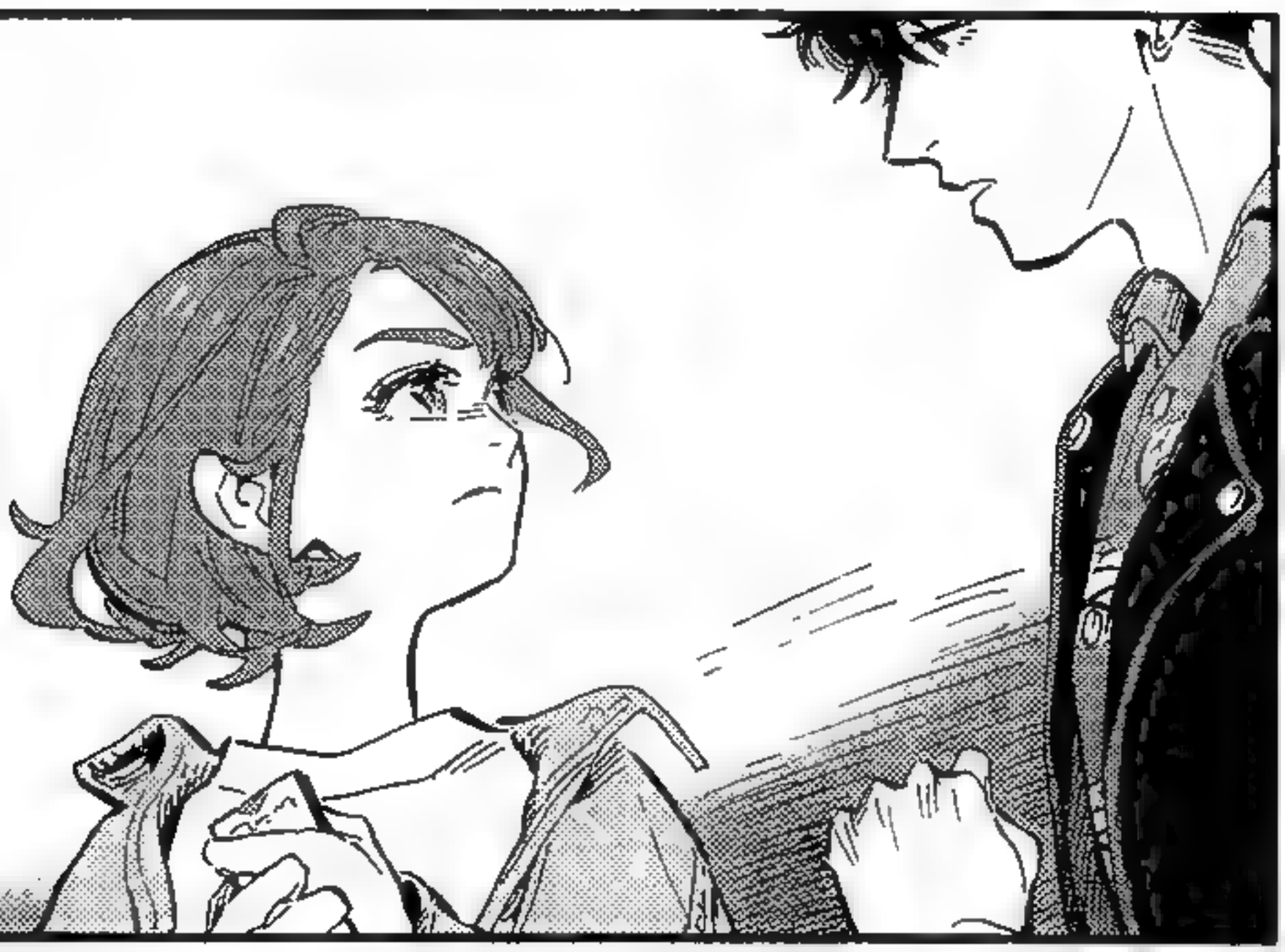


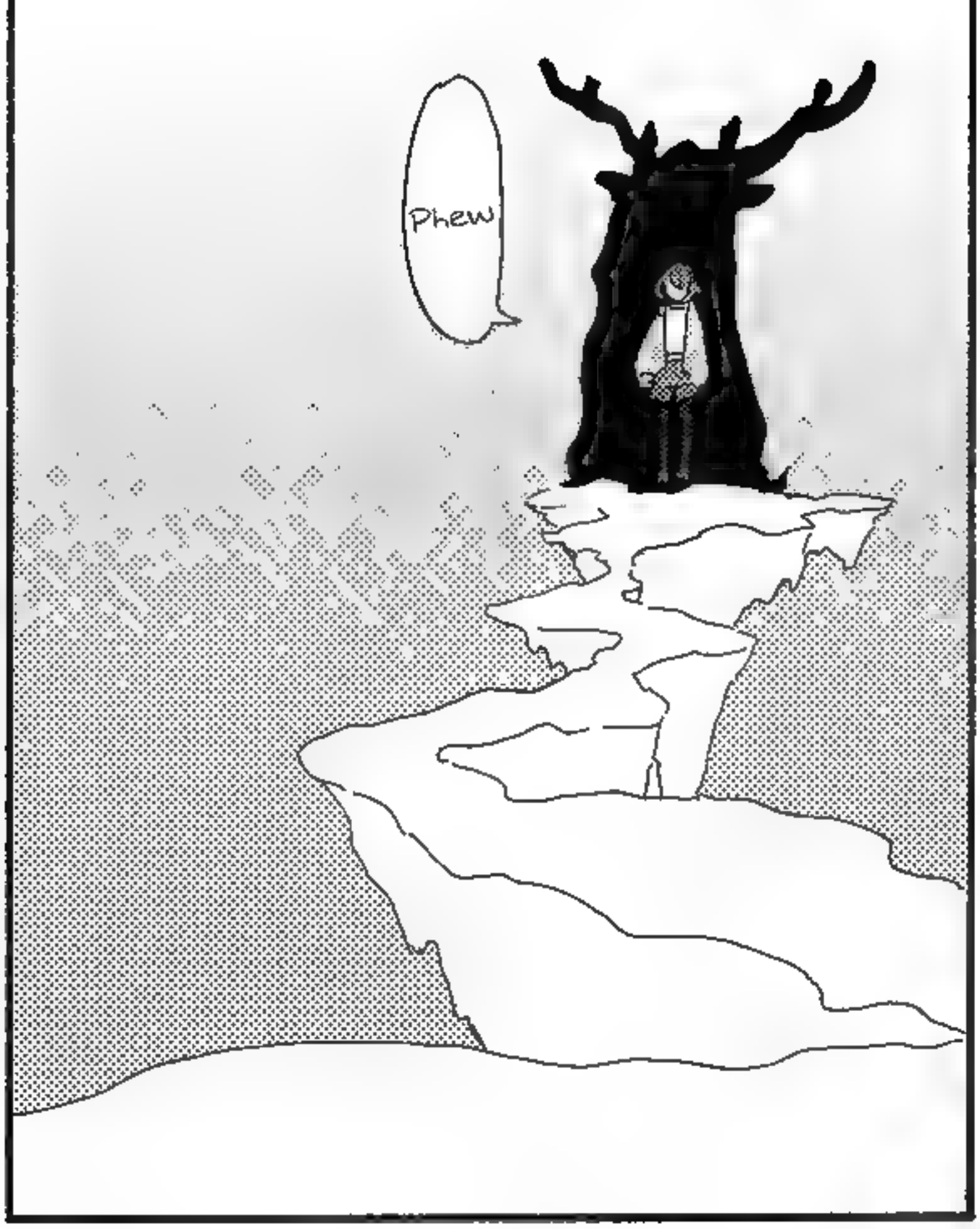




Rumble
ARLLEN
Kiji
チョコレート

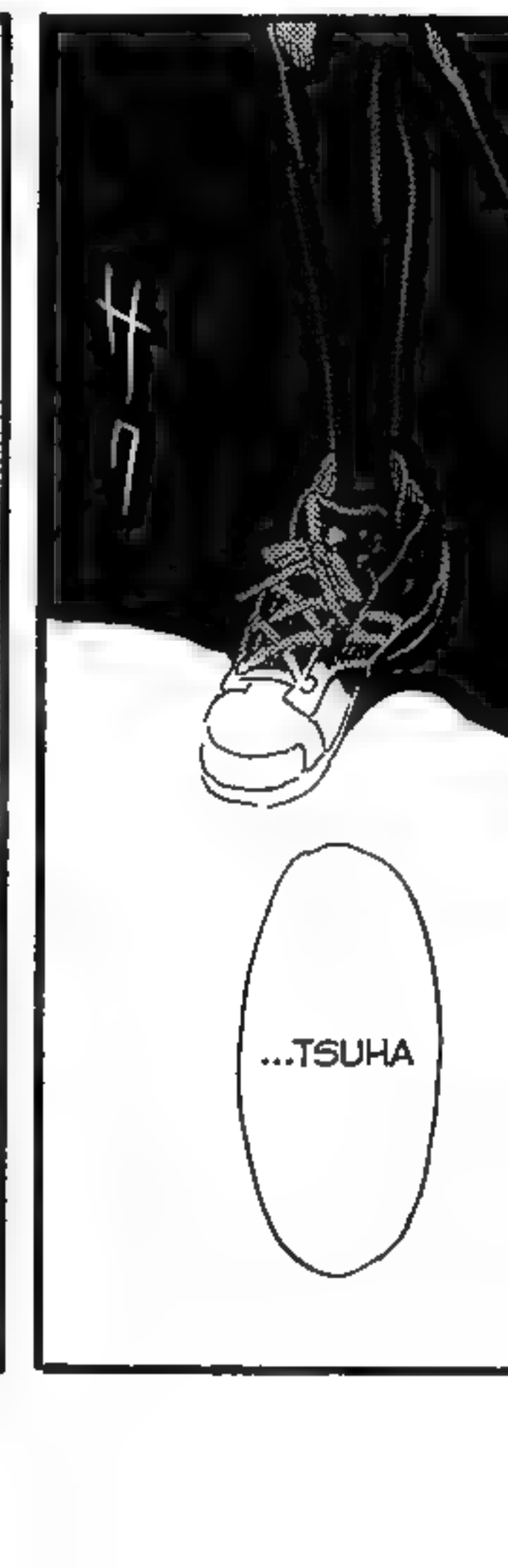
Rumble




Phew

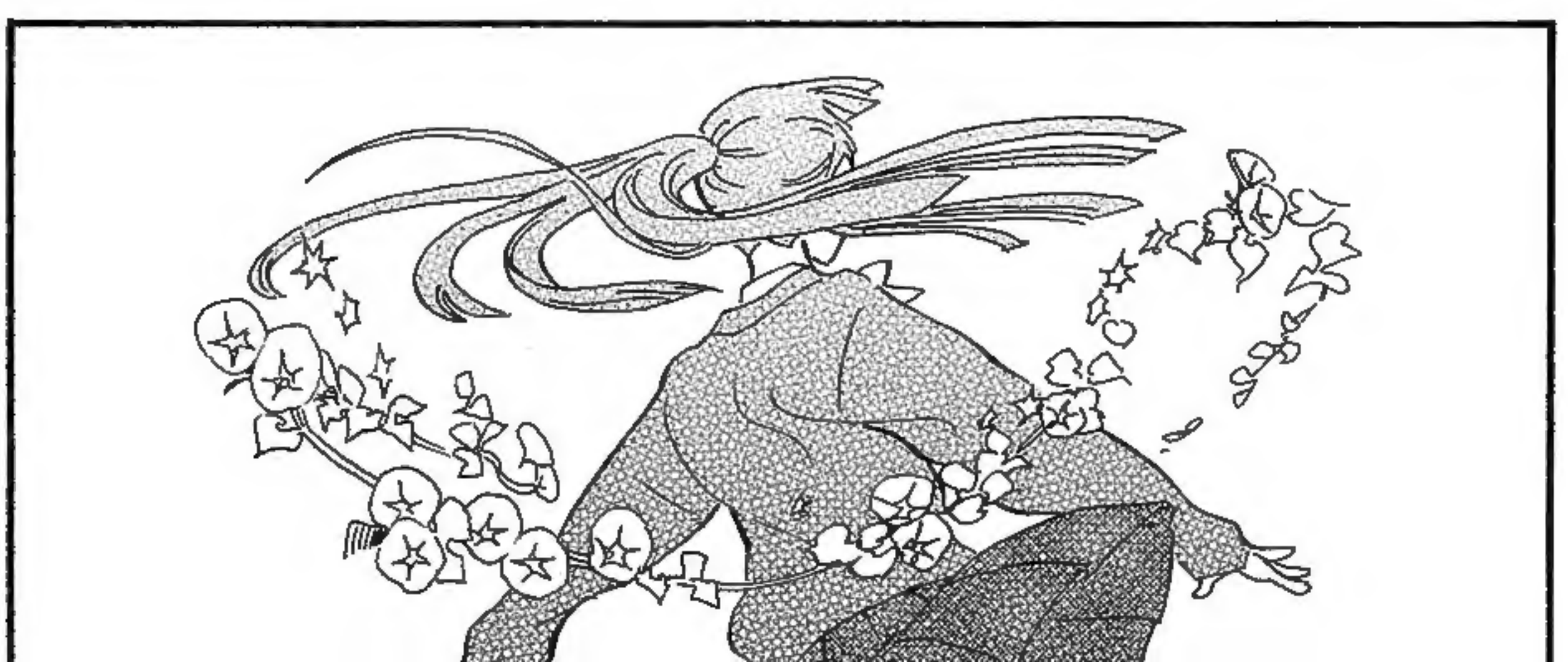
I'M...
ALMOST THERE.

MITSUHA.
MITSUHA.

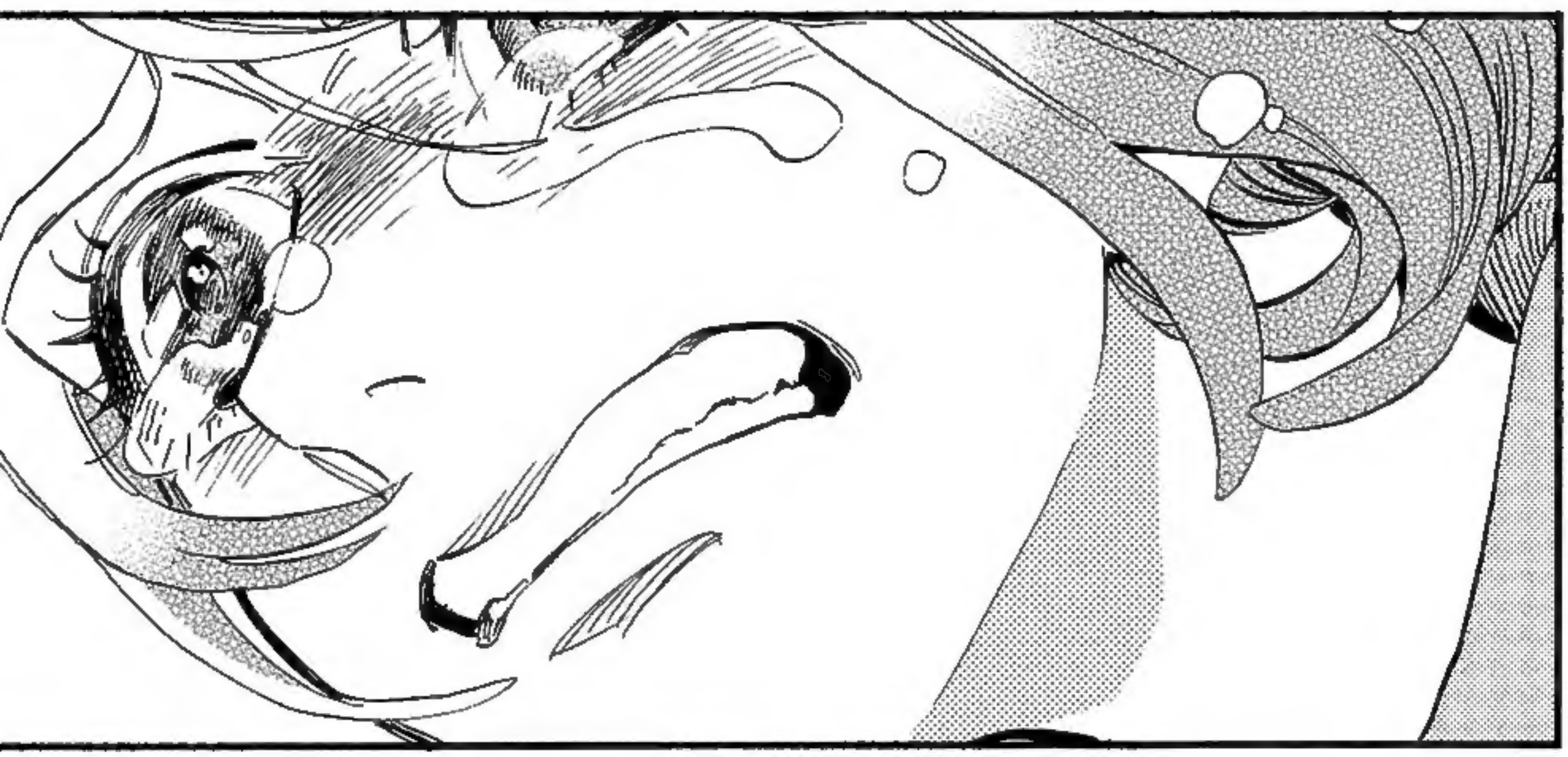

...TSUHA

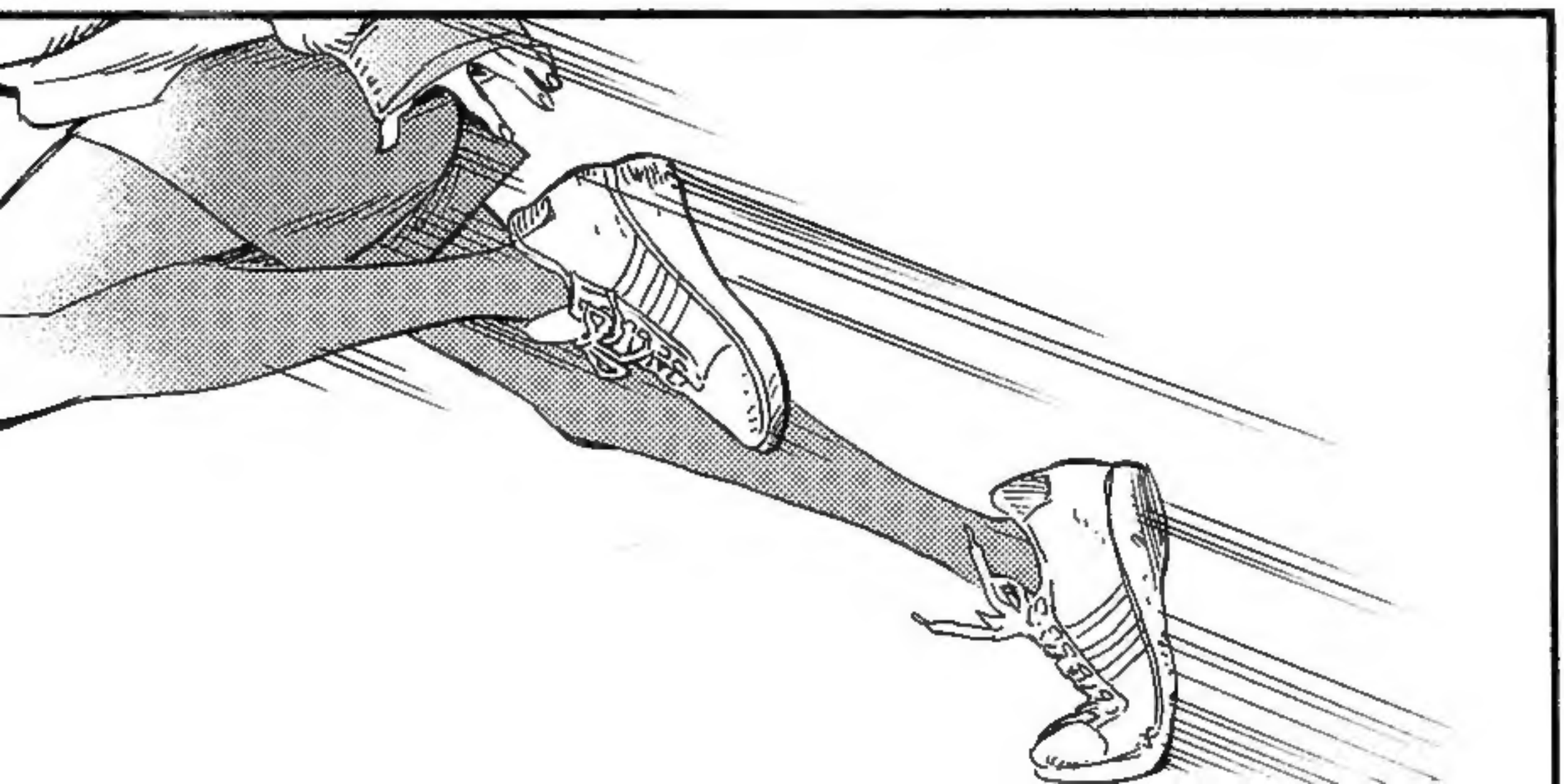
SHE MEANS EVERYTHING TO ME...
MITSUHA!
SHE'S ALL I NEED.
MITSUHA.
MITSUHA IS MY WHOLE WORLD.
CAN YOU BELIEVE IT?
MOM...
WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO NOW, MITSUHA?

I MADE SOME NEW MEMORIES THAT ARE JUST AS SPECIAL AS THE ONES I SHARED WITH MITSUHA.



MIKAAA!





Chirp

もう一度会いたいから
死ぬ。
ミッヘ、やっとここまで
来たよ。

Chirp

Chirp

【ヒラエスは旅路の果て】第15話／おわり

次号へつづく